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Volume 71, Issue 1 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com Thursday, July 3, 2025

Huberty named assistant principal at Plainwell HS

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

A familiar face will be taking on a new role at Plainwell High School.

Longtime PHS teacher/instructional coach Brian Huberty was recently named the schools' new assistant principal.

According to Huberty, who began his teaching career at PHS in 2003, this seemed like the perfect time to take on this new challenge.

"I'm in the back third of my career, and I felt like this was the right time to take on a role where I can make an even bigger impact," he said. "While I'll miss being in the classroom every day, this position allows me to help shape systems that support not only students but also our educators.

"I want to continue doing my part to make Plainwell one of the top districts in Southwest Michigan."

During his time at PHS, Huberty—who played baseball at Cornerstone University—has also coached several sports. That includes taking over as head varsity football coach in 2023.

He will retain that position.

"(Staying on as football coach) was really important to me," Huberty said. "Our staff has worked hard the past two years to build a strong foundation for long-term success.

"One of the challenges we've faced is coaching turnover, and I want to bring some stability to the program. These athletes have put in a ton of work, and I want to be there to help them reach the success they've earned."

Huberty believes coaching will also benefit him in his new position as assistant principal.

"Coaching keeps me grounded and connected to the daily experiences of our students in a way that benefits me in my leadership role," he said.

His past roles as teacher and instructional coach will also serve Huberty well, he believes.

"I think having an administrator who has been in the classroom is a huge asset," he said. "I know firsthand what the job requires and the kind of support teachers need. As an instructional coach, I was able to work directly with teachers on developing strong instructional practices, things that benefit both teachers and students.

Brian Huberty

"That experience gave me a clear picture of how to help our staff grow and succeed."]

Huberty knows students today face unique challenges as compared to previous generations.

"Navigating social media—both what they're exposed to and how much time they're spending on it—has a big impact on how they interact with each other and with adults," he said. "Add to that the pressure of figuring out their future—college, scholarships, athletics—and it's a lot.

"That said, the core mission hasn't changed. Teachers, coaches, and staff are here to help students become good people. We try to take those challenges and turn them into growth opportunities. That's what I love about this team at PHS—everyone here is focused on building great citizens, not just students."

In terms of what he views as the primary responsibilities as the assistant principal, Huberty said building relationships is at the top of the list.

"A lot of people immediately think 'discipline' when they hear assistant principal, but it's much more than that," he said. "Just like in the classroom, it starts with building strong relationships—with students and staff—to create a safe, supportive, and enjoyable learning environment.

"We'll be rolling out some new cell phone policies, and I'm sure that'll take up some attention early on. But at the end of the day, my biggest role is to be a champion for our students and staff, making sure everyone's rowing the boat in the same direction and working together."

Huberty came to PHS after earning his bachelor's degree in secondary education from Cornerstone University. He later received his master's in education from Cornerstone.

Huberty and his wife Becky—who have been married since 2002—share three children, with daughter Brynn recently graduating from PHS. Twins Audra and Olivia are juniors, with Audra on the swim & dive team and Olivia a member of the volleyball team.

"Plainwell has been home for a long time—for me and for my family," Huberty said. "I care deeply about this community and the people in it. This role isn't just a promotion; it's an opportunity to give back in a bigger way.

"I'm excited to work alongside a passionate team of educators to continue making PHS a place where students can thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally. I'm grateful for the chance to lead and to serve."

Women Who Care of Allegan County make big impact

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The most recent Otsego City Commission meeting featured a visit by a special guest.

Holly McCaw, representing the organization Women Who Care of Allegan County (WWCAC), gave a presentation outlining the group's impact both locally and throughout the county.

McCaw attended the meeting at the invitation of City Manager Aaron Mitchell.

"Aaron said (the City Commission is) looking to have a presentation on a local organization at each meeting, so he asked if I'd share information on Women Who Care," McCaw said. "Most of (the council members) had not heard of the organization before, so it was great to have the opportunity to share what we're about."

McCaw shared that, since its inception in 2014, WWCAC has awarded 43 donations to 29 different organizations serving Allegan County, totaling $231,600.

"Our mission is simply to support the people and communities in Allegan County through donations to nonprofit organizations," McCaw said.

Recipients must be a 501c3 and serve Allegan County residents.

WWCAC meets four times a year, with each member donating $100 at each meeting. There are currently 72 members, with a goal of 100.

"The donation recipients are nominated and chosen by our members," McCaw said. "At the start of each meeting, people can put their name and the nonprofit they'd like to nominate in a hat. We choose three and those people get a chance to share information about that nonprofit to the entire group.

Holly McCaw from Women Who Care of Allegan County (left) presents a check to a local organization. (Photo provided)

"They have five minutes to present, then members have five minutes to ask questions. After all three presentations, members vote and the nonprofit with the most votes wins. Each member writes their check directly to that organization and we, as Women Who Care founders, coordinate the delivery of those checks."

McCaw—the director of communications for Otsego Public Schools—is a charter member of the organization, which formed at the suggestion of then-OPS superintendent Denny Patzer.

"Denny saw an article on the Kalamazoo Chapter and approached a few of us here at OPS along with his wife and thought we could start a chapter for Allegan County," McCaw said.

In addition to McCaw, charter members included Becky Patzer, Melissa Koenig, Michelle Triemstra, Heather Kortlandt, Heather Buskard and Rosemary Zink.

"We worked to gather names of people involved in the Plainwell, Otsego, Martin and Allegan communities and sent out invitations to get us started," McCaw said. "We had a fantastic first meeting with more than 40 people in attendance."

WWCAC meetings are held at Four Roses in Plainwell, with social time beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting itself starting at 6 p.m. Each meeting starts with a presentation from the previous quarter's recipient so they can report back to the group on how our donation was used.

"It's truly rewarding to be a part of this group and see how much we are making a difference in our own community," McCaw said.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 12. Meetings are also scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11; Tuesday, Feb. 10; and Tuesday, May 12.

"We would love to continue to grow our membership," McCaw said.

People can find out more on the WWCAC website at https://womenwhocareofallegancounty.weebly.com/ and follow the group on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/WomenWhoCareOfAlleganCounty/.

"We ask for at least a one year commitment once you sign the membership form and then members just continue to stay on," McCaw said.

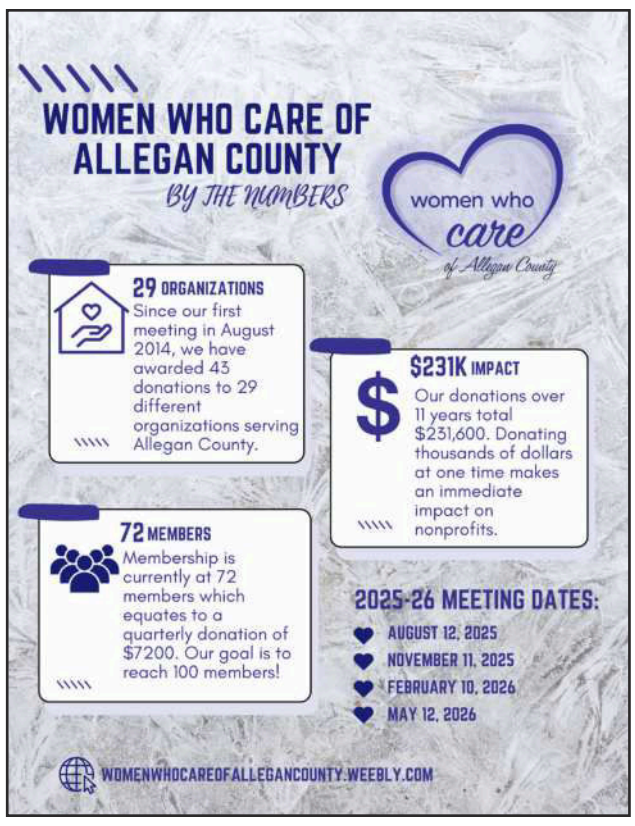
Organizations helped by WWCAC are: Hands 2 Hands (now Good Hands Plainwell); Wings Home Hospice; Royal Family Kids Camp; Sylvia's Place; Allegan County Legal Assistance Center; Congregational Kitchen; Bridges of Hope; Hungry for Christ; Safe Harbor of Allegan; Plainwell Volunteer Christmas Project; Otsego Public Schools Foundation—Bulldogs Bookin' Bus; St. Vincent de Paul; Talons Out Honor Flight; Plainwell Arts Council; Rylee Lou Charity; The Arc of Allegan; Christian Neighbors; TeenServe; Allegan Homeless Solutions; Beyond Bones through the Arc; Sleep in Heavenly Peace; Braden's Closet; Grant Burd Fund; Fell in Love Far; Renewed Hope Health Clinic; Give Hope RV; Martin Resource Center; and CCC The Branches.

"What's amazing about Women Who Care is that we can provide an impactful, sometimes life-changing, donation to these organizations," McCaw said. "Instead of receiving $100 here and there, they receive approximately $7,000 all at once.

"We've helped with medical staffing support for some organizations, provided camps at no charge for kids, funded Honor Flights for veterans—the list is lengthy and we're extremely proud to be a part of this organization and grateful to those who continue to be a member and make a difference.

"We have also learned a lot about the different organizations that exist to help people in Allegan County. There have been a number of presentations at our meetings of organizations I had not heard of before, so that's been eye-opening as well.

If anyone has any questions or would like more information about WWCAC, they can email womenwhocare.allegan@gmail.com.


WOMEN WHO CARE OF ALLEGAN COUNTY
BY THE NUMBERS
women who care of Allegan County
29 ORGANIZATIONS
Since our first meeting in August 2014, we have awarded 43 donations to 29 different organizations serving Allegan County.
$231K IMPACT
Our donations over 11 years total $231,600. Donating thousands of dollars at one time makes an immediate impact on nonprofits.
72 MEMBERS
Membership is currently at 72 members which equates to a quarterly donation of $7200. Our goal is to reach 100 members!
2025-26 MEETING DATES:
AUGUST 12, 2025
NOVEMBER 11, 2025
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
MAY 12, 2026
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4th of July celebrations around the Allegan County area set

By Gari Voss

The 4th of July is at hand, and the fireworks tents have popped up like dandelions on a spring lawn. Backyard celebrations are being planned, and multiple levels of explosives are being purchased. In addition, small and large communities are offering 4th of July celebrations with fun, music and more fireworks. Be sure to enjoy the celebrations while staying safe.

The 4th of July 2025 falls on a Friday, but several communities will begin celebrating on July 3rd. Other towns and villages will offer extra activities on days other than the 4th.

As people plan to celebrate, there are several things to remember:

It has been hot across Allegan County and fires can start easily.

Fireworks are DANGEROUS. Take precautions when lighting them.

Do not let children play with ignited fireworks or sparklers.

Make sure fireworks are legal in the area they are used.

Keep a bucket of water or garden hose handy.

Light fireworks one at a time, then move away quickly.

Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.

Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Be sensitive to animals in the area. Dogs, cats, horses, etc. can become very agitated by the sounds and lights.

Opportunities to attend larger firework displays across Allegan County can be found in even our smaller communities. Have a safe Independence Day celebration!

City of Allegan: Thursday, July 3, 2025

This patriotic community's festival features a parade, food, live music, activities, and fireworks.

Allegan's Jubilee Independence Celebration begins**:**

5:00 pm: 10:00 PM: Food vendors open.

5:30 pm: Parade – all are welcome to participate.

6:00 - 10:00 pm: Live music.

10:15 pm: Fireworks display.

Sandy Pines 4th of July Parade: Friday, July 4, 2025

8:30am – the 4th of July parade participants arrive at the Recreation Station. Residents are encouraged to decorate their golf carts, floats and bicycles for **judging starting at 9 a.m.**

9:30 am - the Parade will begin at the Recreation Station Water Park and will end at the Flea Market.

11am-1pm: Youth Archery

Sandy Pines July 4-July 6

All Day, each day - Park Wide Scavenger Hunt

Holiday Tournaments –

3:30-5:30: Dodgeball – Recreation Station (136th Ave.)

Sandy Pines Fireworks: Sat., July 5, 2025

10pm/Dusk: Fireworks

Hopkins Hometown 4th of July Celebration: Friday, July 4, 2025

7-9 am: Freedom Run for the whole family hosted by the Hopkins Cross Country Program.

8-10am: Pancake Breakfast at the Village Park. Check the Hopkins Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/hopkinshometowncelebrations/ for the many activities.

10:30am: Bed Race registration – 11am: Race begins

11:30am: Pie Baking Contest – begin entering pies for a Noon judging.

All afternoon: Pet & Baby Photo contest; Family games & music; Car Show; (2-3pm) Kids Tractor Pull; Bounce House

4pm: Kids Parade

4pm: Line up for 5pm Community Parade

6:30-9pm: Live Music

Dusk –Fireworks.

Saugatuck: Friday, July 4, 2025

11am – Parade: Join the armed forces, bands, and floats as they march south on Elizabeth, west on Allegan, north on Butler St., east on Francis, & ends at the High School. Participants should sign up https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AADA92DA0F5CE9-56121166-4thofjuly and line up at 10:20am near the high school tennis courts.

Noon – Family Fun in Coghlin Park

12:15pm – Pie Eating Contest

Dusk - Fireworks: Enjoy Fireworks over Lake Kalamazoo from anywhere in Saugatuck or Douglas. Bring a blanket or a chair and find a spot at one of the great parks: Cook Park, Coghlin Park, Wade's Bayou, and Wick's Park.

Find parking and a shuttle at the Saugatuck High School on Elizabeth Street. Call the Interurban Shuttle for more information on using this service at 269-857-1418.

Sat., July 5, 2025

10am-5pm: Saugatuck Waterfront Fine Art Fair. This juried fair will be at the park where Main Street and Butler Street meet.

South Haven

Thurs., July 3, 2025: South Haven Light Up the Lake

Dusk: Fireworks. The best view will be from Riverfront Park, North & South Beaches. The fireworks will be coordinated with Music on Cosy 103.7 FM. Plus, the 3-hour pre-show broadcast begins at 7:00 p.m. on Cosy. Watch a livestream of the fireworks at: https://www.southhavenmi.com/south-beach-live-cam.

Fri., July 4, 2025

11am – Parade through Downtown South Haven along Kalamazoo, Phoenix & Center Streets.

Sat., July 5 – Sun., July 6, 2025: Juried South Haven Art Fair

Visit Stanley Johnston Park on Dyckman Ave. and relish wonderful art in all medium.

Sun., July 6, 2025, 6:30am-1pm: South Haven Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast

Huron St. Pavilion 539 Phoenix St. South Haven

Dorr Celebration: Fri., July 4, 2025

9am: Parade – Participants need to register with Dorr Recreation

11am: Luke Lenhart Country Band

4pm: Jimmy & the Mortals

7-8:30pm: Deerfield Run

9:45pm (dusk): Fireworks at Dorr South Park

Battle Creek Hot Air Balloon Field of Flight & Air Show: Wed., July 2 – Sun., July 6, 2025

Battle Creek Executive Airport Battle Creek

The summer skies will fill with majestic, colorful balloons and the Air Shows featuring aerial displays from the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Demonstration Squadron, U.S. Army Golden Knights, U.S. Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet Rhino Demo Team, U.S. Air Force F-35C Lightning II Demo Team (Two-Ship), and top civilian air performers. On the ground will be carnival rides, food vendors, drone shows, circus acts, music, and evening hot air balloon Illume.

Wed., July 3rd, and Fri., July 4th, 10:30pm (dusk) – Fireworks Galore by ACE PYRO

For schedule details, go to https://fieldofflight.com/.

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• Breakfast Pizza (Cheese Sauce, Mozzarella and Cheddar Cheese, Scrambled Egg, Pick One: Ham, Bacon, Sausage, Chorizo, Hamburger)
• Chicken Bacon Ranch (Ranch Sauce, Chicken, Mozzarella Cheese, Bacon)
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ALLEGAN COUNTY CLERK – REGISTER RELEASE ANNUAL REPORT

Good News: Real Estate Transactions were up; PPO's were down

Bob Genetski released his offices' *2024 ANNUAL REPORT to the TAXPAYERS of ALLEGAN COUNTY* at a the Dorr Township Board of Trustees meeting.

The report gives great insight into the challenges of managing the four elections that took place and implementing the new Early In Person Voting. One of the striking statistics from the elections section reveals that in August of 2024, eight of 24 township clerks chose not to seek reelection. So, when a sitting clerk was defeated in the primary, more than one third of all township clerks in the county enter 2025 as new to their jobs.

Genetski's statistics show Vital Records transaction increasing by 474 over the prior year.

The report indicates that the Circuit Court Records Division accepted 2,560 new cases filed with the 48th Circuit Court. "Some very good news in the Circuit Court numbers as Personal Protection Orders were down-adult, domestic and juvenile – all declined," noted the Clerk-Register. "That's the first time since 2019 that all three have gone down."

In the Register's Office, the Saugatuck Republican indicated that the number of land transfers and mortgages recorded in Allegan County increased, though slightly. Those increases (83 and 194 respectively) represent the first growth in such numbers since 2021 hopefully indicating a rebound in real estate throughout the county.

The *2024 ANNUAL REPORT to the TAXPAYERS of ALLEGAN COUNTY* is available online at https://www.allegancounty.org/connect/annual-reports. Residents can also call the office at (269) 673-0291 for a copy.

The photo on the cover of this year's report is from Overisel Township, just south of Benthiem and is the work of Hamilton's Abigail Reimink.

South of Benthiem, Overisel Township – photo by Abigail Reimink

Over 250 seniors jam expo

By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN — The doors to the Senior Expo did not open until 8 a.m., former county commissioner James Storey said, but Allegan County seniors, eager for information to better their lives, started lining up an hour early.

More than 250 ended up attending the five-hour mix of socializing and information gathering last Thursday. Among the vendors were those offering services such as home cleaning and health care, hearing aids, funeral planning, delivered meals, and many others. Held at the First Baptist Church, the event was sponsored by the Commission on Aging and the count's senior and veterans service office.

"Formerly called Boomer Bash, the Senior Expo is an annual event. The office also sponsors a Veteran Stand Down with exhibitors invited to offer services to the county's military veteran population. The stand down is scheduled for Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m, also at First Baptist Church," Storey said.

NOTICE

To: The residents and property owners of the Township of Manlius, Allegan County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Zoning Board of Appeals of Manlius Township will hold a public hearing on Monday July 7, 2025, commencing at 5:00 P.M. at the Manlius Township Hall located at 3134 57th ST, Fennville MI

Matter(s) to be discussed, locations of accessory buildings and private road access.

1) Arthur & Julie Love are requesting a variance for lot size for building purposes. The property address is vacant lot(s) at the northeast corner of Old Allegan Road and 128 th avenue, Fennville MI 49408. The property number(s) are 03-14-027-017-00 and 03 14 027 018 00, Manlius Township, Allegan County, Michigan. Ordinance which applies is Article VI, Section 1.0604.2, Minimum lot size 10 acres, proposed lot size is 8.93 acres as it exists.
2) Such other matters as may properly come before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to amend requested variance(s).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the General Development Master Plan and Manlius Zoning Ordinance are available for public examination at the Manlius Township Hall, located at 3134 57th St, Fennville Michigan 49408up to and including the date of the public hearing, and may also be examined at the public hearing. Further, written comments will be received from any interested persons at the offices of the Township Hall up to and including the date of the public hearing before said hearing time and may also be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals, at said public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Manlius Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days written notice to the Township Clerk, Mathew Rooks, 3134 57th Street, Fennville Mi 49408-9470 or by telephoning him at 269-561-8855. Manlius Township

Manlius Township Clerk
Mathew Rooks

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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of June 30, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Fireworks:

July 3, 2025: Allegan, Green Lake, South Haven

July 4, 2025: Dorr, Hopkins

July 5, 2025: Gun Lake, Saugatuck, Sandy Pines

More Events!

Thurs., July 3, 2025, 6:30pm: City Music Hall – Kanola Band
City 130 W. Main St. Fennville

Sat., July 5, 2025, 10am-5pm: Saugatuck Waterfront Fine Art Fair
Along Butler and Main Streets Saugatuck, MI

Sat., July 5, 2025, 7pm: Good Times at the Gazebo – His Boy Elroy
Mahan Park Gazebo Brady St. Allegan

Sat., July 5, 2025, 7-10pm: Summer Saturday Concerts & Food Trucks - Live Bait Band and Taqueria La Tia Linda
Pullman Town Square 109th Ave & 56th St.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., July 2, 2025, 6pm: Pintesting: Folding Paper Hand Fan
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Learn to create a folded paper fan. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., July 3 – Sat., July 5: Hopkin's Hometown Celebration
Downtown Hopkins offers everything from pie making and pie eating contests to pedal tractor races to celebrate their city and the 4th of July.

Thurs., July 3, 2025, 5-fireworks: July 3rd Jubilee
Allegan Riverfront Hubbard & Brady Streets Allegan
5-10pm: food & fun; dark: Fireworks

Thurs., July 3, 2025, 6:30pm: City Music Hall – Kanola Band
City 130 W. Main St. Fennville
Enjoy some Jazz.

Sat., July 5, 2025, 10am: Drone Club
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Drop in and enjoy learning how to fly drones.

Sat., July 5, 2025, 10am-5pm: Saugatuck Waterfront Fine Art Fair
Along Butler and Main Streets Saugatuck, MI
The Saugatuck/Douglas Art Club invites artists to participate and community members and visitors to enjoy the variety of fine art created by local artists. This is a juried event, so the offerings will be original.

Sat., July 5, 2025, 7pm: Good Times at the Gazebo – His Boy Elroy
Mahan Park Gazebo Brady St. Allegan
Enjoy great classic rock covers.

Sat., July 5, 2025, 7-10pm: Summer Saturday Concerts & Food Trucks
Pullman Town Square 109th Ave & 56th St.
July 5th, enjoy the Live Bait Band and Taqueria La Tia Linda

Mon., July 7, 2025, 6-7:30pm: Grief Support Group
Wings of Hope Office 530 Linn St. Allegan
These meeting on the 1st Monday of each month promote healing and connection.
wings@wingsofhopehospice.com

Mon., July 7, 2025, 2025, 5-8pm: Fork in the Road, Food Truck Rally
Downtown Allegan. Find your favorite food!

Tues., July 8, 2025, 9am: Coffee for Vets
Lutheran Church, 631 Grand Street, Allegan
ALL veterans who have served or are currently serving in our military forces can gather for fellowship with other vets, share conversation, and enjoy coffee and donuts/rolls. Please come and see what this is all about and share this with others you feel might like to come. Questions: please call (269)673-3335.

Tues., July 8, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 year olds enjoy stories and activities.
2pm: Teen Game Day – Grades 6-12 students have an afternoon of digital and board games.
6:30pm: Book Club – Come and participate in a discussion of *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn.

Tues., July 8, 2025, 12:30-2pm: Grief Support Group
United Methodist Church 322 Maple St. Hopkins
These meeting on the 1st Monday of each month promote healing and connection.
wings@wingsofhopehospice.com

Tues., July 8, 2025, 5-7pm: Community Art Reception
Brave Art Studios & Gallery M-89 Allegan
Enjoy light refreshments and original works by Paulette Carr.

Wed., July 9, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Recess for Adults – Come and interact with people from the Allegan ARC.
6pm: Wiggle Worms Play 'N Learn – 0-3 year olds and siblings can drop in for fun and conversation.

Wed., July 9, 2025, 5-9pm: Music on Main
Wayland Downtown Wayland
Join the fun and wonderful music.
downtownwayland.com

Thurs., July 10, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – children 3-5 are invited to enjoy books and activities.
3pm: Messy Munchkins – Children 0-7 are invited to create mini murals with finger paints.

Thurs., July 10, 2025, 6:30pm: City Music Hall – Mulebone
City 130 W. Main St. Fennville
Enjoy some traditional blues.

Fri., July 11, 2025, 1pm: MI Mammals with the Kalamazoo Nature Center
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
All ages can drop in and learn about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores.

Fri., July 11, 2025, 7-9pm: Rollin' on the River – The Bootstrap Boys
Allegan Riverfront off Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy some Country.

Sat., July 12, 2025, 10am: Heroes and Horsepower
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
All ages can drop in and learn about community service cars and trucks and their drivers.

Sat., July 12, 2025, 10am-2pm: Macatawa Water Festival
Kollen Park 240 Kollen Park Dr. Holland
Sponsored by the Allegan Conservation District. For additional information, contact Allegan.Admin@macd.org.

Sat., July 12, 2025, 7pm: Good Times at the Gazebo – The Guinness Brothers & Jack Dailey
Mahan Park Gazebo Brady St. Allegan
Enjoy great classic rock covers.

Sat., July 12, 2025, 7-10pm: Summer Saturday Concerts & Food Trucks
Pullman Town Square 109th Ave & 56th St.
July 12th, enjoy Michael & Sophia McIntosh and Hoggs Next Barbeque

Sat., July 12, 2025, 7-10pm: Todd Michael & Ghost Town Marshalls
Sandy Pines Phase 1 Outdoor Pavilion
This concert is for members, campers and registered guests.

Mon., July 14, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Doh Play Lab – Ages 0-7 can get messy and creative.
1pm: Craft & Snack – All ages can bring their projects and enjoy conversations and light refreshments.
2pm: Balloon Animals with Mr. Jim – All ages can enjoy watching Mr. Jim create colorful animals.
6pm: Act Out! With Spike Kunetz – Learn basic acting skills from a professional actor.

Mon., July 14, 2025, 2025, 5-8pm: Fork in the Road, Food Truck Rally
Downtown Allegan. Find your favorite food!

Tues., July 15, 2025, 10:30am: Lapsit Storytime
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Ages 0-2 can drop in to enjoy stories and fun.

Wed., July 16, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Teen Tie Dye Club – Students in grades 6-12 can create a wonderful pillowcase.
6:30pm: Pub Quiz at Tantrick Brewing – Begin register teams at 5:30pm then test your knowledge.

Wed., July 16, 2025, 5-9pm: Music on Main
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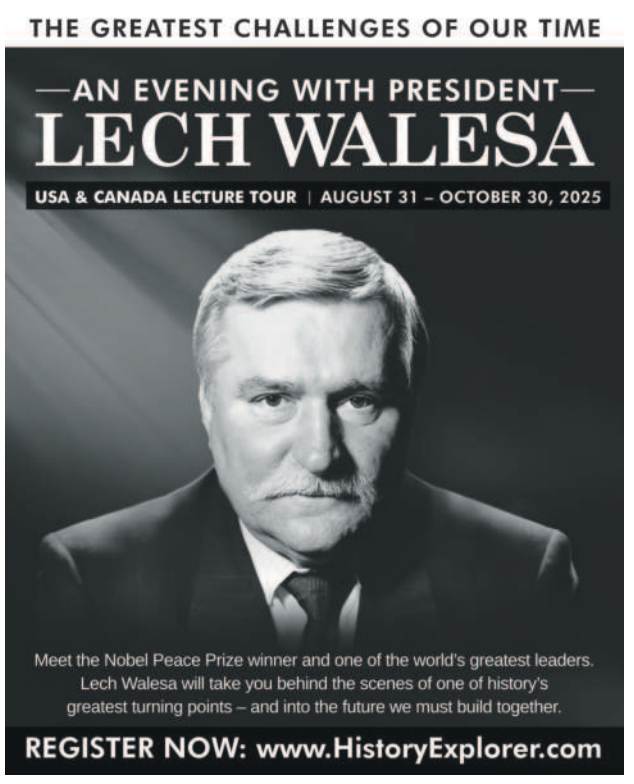
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Family Fare owner, Hardings, Wagoners, and Village Market supplier sold to East Coast wholesaler

By Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

The corporate-owned Family Fare Store in Paw Paw, Michigan, will soon be sold to C&S Wholesale Grocers. Photo from Sam Mason on Google Maps.

Our Family and Spartan - two brands so prevalent in the Michigan grocery scene that it's almost impossible not to purchase at least one of their products during a visit to any local grocery store.

SpartanNash is the Byron Center-based owner of these brands. Originally founded as a 43 grocer-cooperative in 1917, they've been supplying local stores with groceries for over a century.

In 1957, the cooperative adopted the Spartan name, and in the 1970s became a for-profit corporation.

Later on, Spartan began acquiring many of the beloved grocery chains they supplied. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, they bought Ashcraft's, D&Ws, Family Fare, Felspauch, Glen's, Martin's, and ValuLand.

In 2013, Spartan also acquired the Nash Finch Company, a major grocery distributor in Minnesota, and founder of the Our Family brand. It was at this time that the company became known as SpartanNash and started to use the Our Family brand instead of the Spartan Foods brand.

Nowadays, SpartanNash is a Fortune 400 company and one of the biggest in the grocery industry. It has over 20,000 employees and operates in two different segments, wholesale and grocery retail.

Their wholesale business supplies most of Michigan's independent grocery stores with their groceries, and their global supply chain network serves wholesale customers that include independent and chain grocers, national retail brands, and e-commerce platforms. They also supply over 550 U.S. military commissaries and exchanges, which many industry experts have called the "crown jewel" of grocery distribution.

Here in Southwest Michigan, their biggest clients include Hardings Markets, Village Market Food Centers, and Wagoners Food Stores.

On the retail side, SpartanNash operates nearly 200 brick-and-mortar grocery stores, primarily under the banners of Family Fare, Martin's Super Markets, and D&W Fresh Market, in addition to dozens of pharmacies and fuel centers.

However, despite its grandeur, SpartanNash has been struggling to grow, and as of recently has been struggling financially too.

According to supermarketnews.com and SpartanNash's close consultant Burt Flickinger, the company reported a 3% decline in their wholesale division last year, and their share price has been trending downwards. Flickinger says it's dropped by nearly 50% since 2022.

So, to the rescue comes C&S Wholesale Grocers, who announced last week that they will be acquiring SpartanNash for a whopping $1.77 billion or $26.90 per share of common stock in cash.

C&S is headquartered in Keene, New Hampshire, and is the eighth-largest privately held company in the United States. According to their website, they service over 7,500 independent supermarkets, chain stores, military bases, and institutions, with over 100,000 different products. Some of their more known clients include Target, Giant and Food Lion on the East Coast, and Winn-Dixie and Harveys in the South.

C&S also owns a few grocery brands themselves, including the Piggly Wiggly name, which is franchised out to individuals, and has been making great strides to improve their Grand Union grocery stores in New York.

According to both companies, this acquisition will help with three things: better support for independent retailers, lower prices, and greater accessibility.

These benefits stem from the combined company's nearly 60 distribution centers, 10,000 independent retail locations, and over 200 corporate-owned grocery stores - most of which come from Spartan.

They claim that, "being able to operate at a larger scale, backed by the combined innovative capabilities of C&S and SpartanNash, will lead to a more efficient supply chain as well as an ability to obtain the best possible delivered cost of goods and promotional discounts, which are expected to mean better pricing for community retailers and at the shelf for consumers. The stability of the combined organization will enable the merged company and its customers to better compete against several huge global grocers in the U.S. food-at-home space."

They also promise to put affordable nutrition and pharmacy services in local communities at the forefront of their operations, providing families with access to fresh food, necessary prescription medications, and health services.

In a statement to industry media, Eric Winn, CEO of C&S, said, "This is an exciting opportunity for our team members, partners and, notably, our customers. Our company and SpartanNash share many of the same values, including a strong emphasis on customers, teamwork, and our communities. Together, we are uniting some of the most advanced capabilities and boldest innovations in the distribution market to better serve communities across the nation. At C&S, we have a legacy of braggingly happy customers, and our team members strive every day to take care of our customers' stores as if they are our own. The combination of our two companies' capabilities puts our collective customers' stores and our own retail stores at the center of the plate, supporting their ability to thrive in a highly dynamic and competitive environment. Our customers need us more than ever, and we are building a sustainable platform for our team members to be able to support them long into the future."

Tony Sarsam, President and CEO of SpartanNash, echoed similar sentiments. "We are energized by the opportunities this combination provides for our associates and customers. With our organizational values in close alignment, there will be exciting new career opportunities for our people and a continued commitment to a People First culture. For our customers, this transaction creates the necessary scale, efficiency, and purchasing power needed to enable independent retailers to compete more effectively with larger big-box chains. Neighborhood grocers are essential pillars of our communities that we want to preserve and strengthen. A thriving hometown grocery store supports local farmers, bolsters the local economy, and enhances the overall health and well-being of the community."

The deal is expected to close in late 2025, subject to certain customary closing conditions, including, among other items, SpartanNash shareholder approval and applicable regulatory approvals. C&S has received financing commitment letters for the transaction.

Interestingly enough, C&S, among others, is also currently working on acquiring Southeastern Grocers too, another grocery wholesaler and retail operator in the South. They own the aforementioned Winn-Dixie and Harveys brands, which operate in five states. The deal is expected to close in 2027 and should add more efficiencies to a combined C&S-SpartanNash.

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Health costs soar, some hospitals benefit

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX

■ PUBLISHER ■

I just read a report from the Michigan Health Purchasers Coalition (MIHPC) that essentially concluded that larger hospitals have had profits increased dramatically.

Now we all know, if we have spent any time in a hospital, we are charged exorbitant amounts for the most sundry items such as aspirin. You can't get out of a hospital without spending tens of thousands of dollars.

The hospitals of course blame insurance companies and vice versa. Big Pharma shares the blame as well. The blame game is passed around, all to the detriment of the patients. Many experts acknowledge publicly our health care system is sick and won't be able to be maintained over the long run.

I feel sorry for smaller hospitals. They are unable to keep up with the costs of operation, and many of them are closing or being absorbed by the bigger guys. That's unfortunate because some might argue the smaller guys offered more personable care and cared for the people and community they were located in.

But then again, maybe hospitals struggling with profitability need to be like small businesses. "Small businesses are experts in doing more with less- while providing top-notch goods and services to their communities," said Brian Callery, President and CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan. "Small businesses need hospitals to do the same thing- identify ways to provide exceptional care for patients, while lowering costs."

This is what Bret Jackson, President of MIHPC has to say. "Prices for hospital services have increased by nearly 250 percent over the past 25 years- faster than the cost of college tuition, childcare and housing. Meanwhile the extreme profits of the largest hospital systems are out of balance making it challenging for patients to afford necessary treatments."

The MIHPC report shows 17 percent of Michigan hospitals have an operating margin of below 4 percent.

Most of these are small hospitals located in rural areas. However, 23 hospitals have a profit margin of over 20 percent, with eight hospitals showing profit margins over 30 percent.

The highly profitable hospitals are Corewell Health, Henry Ford Health, McLaren Health and Trinity Health. They appear to be making money hand over fist at the expense of their patients.

20 percent is exceptional in the business world. 30 percent is highway robbery. No company should show that kind of profit, yet bigger hospital conglomerates are doing just that.

Calley added, "It's disappointing to see this level of profit margin when small businesses are continually feeling the pain of crushing health care costs. We're hopeful that Michigan's hospitals will turn their focus to structural reforms that reduce costs so that small businesses can afford t continue providing health care for their employees."

Calley represents businesses. But what about the individual? Why should they pay exorbitant health care costs when the hospital their insurance company sends them to is making 30 percent profit? That's simply outrageous. One has to wonder what the profit margins for the larger health insurance companies is? Are they also showing huge profits?

Enough of my rant. MAY EACH And EVERY READER have a fun-filled, safe 4th of July weekend.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

This coming Friday, July 4th, is our nation's 249th anniversary since the delegates to the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence. Two hundred forty-nine is not considered a major milestone event. We'll wait until next year for a big celebration, so let's think of this year as something of a dress rehearsal for a Most of us will celebrate the national holiday with parades, fireworks, bands, perhaps picnics and other family and friends activities that we enjoy. Since this year is a long weekend, we get some extra time to do some things we want to do. As a bonus, we get to plan for next year.

For those of us of a certain age, the bicentennial of 1976, seems like it was just yesterday; those who are younger might say it is ancient history. In many ways, things have not changed all that much over the past half-century. In fact, the basics have not changed that much over the past two and a half centuries. To me, the important part is that we still live in a wonderful country that, for the most part, is populated by people who seek to do good, and we are still as divided as ever.

For example, by the time the delegates assembled in Philadelphia, and began working on the Declaration, a state of war already existed for over a year. In April 1775, the Battle of Lexington and Concord was fought. In June, the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought. Among the civilian population, sentiment was roughly divided into thirds: one third Loyalists, one third Patriots, and one third either undecided or ambivalent.

Not all the delegates to the Continental Congress liked the way things were going. At least two of them, John Jay of New York and Edward Rutledge of North Carolina, were adamantly opposed to parting company with England. In time, both were won over to the Patriot side.

The origins of this war date back even further, to the early 1600s when the Kings of England were trying to muzzle free speech and free press. Like the nation, Parliament was divided, with most of the Members demanding that newspapers should be controlled so that they printed nothing that went against the beliefs and policies of the government. During the English Civil Wars of the 1640s, and then the Commonwealth a decade later, the debate over a free press grew increasingly viscous. At various times newspapers were muzzled by both the King (until 1650) and Parliament. The Church, the religious bureau of the monarchy, was also divided. High ranking officials in the Anglican Church wanted tight controls on the press. At first, Cromwell advocated for the freedom of the press. Then, after the execution of the Archbishop of Canterbury and King Charles I, Cromwell, with the title of Lord Protector, reversed himself and enforced tight control over the press.

It might have remained that way in America had it not been for the Declaration of Independence. The delegates were, for the most part, some of the most learned men in the country, highly influenced by the liberal ideas of the Enlightenment. Since democracy depends highly on free speech and free press, foremost among the Bill of Rights in the Amendments to the Constitution was the right to free speech, freedom to associate with whomever we choose.

Many citizens found this new form of government confusing, messy, chaotic, and far from efficient. When a woman asked Ben Franklin what type of government the delegates had given the nation, he answered, "A democracy, if you can keep it."

Very little has changed since then, and it is still messy. Little wonder our democracy is so fragile. A dictator or tyrant who has control over speech and the press, merges with government and organized religion, has effectively silenced his or her opponents. History points that out whenever we look at the biographies of Czar Nicholas II and other Romanovs, Lenin, Stalin, and more recently Putin in Russia. Hitler's henchmen sponsored book burning parties and rounding up dissidents for a one-way train ride to the concentration camps. Benito Mussolini began his career as a columnist and then editor for an Italian paper and understood better than anyone else about the dangers of too much freedom. He clamped down on anything that did not support the fascist state.

We have had challenges in our own country to the freedoms of speech and free press. During very challenging political and military times, the government has temporarily restricted those freedoms. Far more common was when a group that opposed an editor's views stormed into the newspaper office, destroyed the press, and perhaps roughed up or killed the editor. It happened during the years leading up to the civil war, after the civil war, and during the rise of labor unions. It happened during the dark years when Senator McCarthy hysterically claimed that communists were taking over the country. It happened again during the civil rights movement, and the Viet Nam War.

In all of these scenarios, anyone who dared to speak up against those who were repressing the freedoms and rights of others, was soon silenced. That is one reason good newspapers and good editors provide space for Letters to the Editor. It is an opportunity for readers to submit their ideas, even when they are the opposite of the editor or paper's position.

Nor does this attempt to control the press and destroy free speech stop with the news media. It soon extends to the performing and visual arts. Hitler outlawed performing or listening to the music of Jewish composers. All visual art was deemed either good or evil, depending on how it fit into the political narrative. Pieces of art were removed from art galleries; museum pieces were removed from the galleries, either destroyed or hidden away, because they were did not fit the political agenda and therefore, were not 'right.' The message was clear: this tacky little dictator who was a failed postcard painter and could not get into art school, knew more than anyone else. And since there was no freedom of speech, no one could disagree with him.

Stalin thought he knew more about architecture than anyone else and insisted in designs that have been described as 'brutalist' - massive stone and glass buildings that were just plain ugly. Elsewhere, he ordered the constructions of huge dams, apartment complexes, and collective farms. All of them collapsed from poor design and shoddy workmanship.

Elsewhere, leaders attempted to destroy any record of a country's history before they began their regime. Perhaps you will recall a couple of decades ago when the Taliban dynamited some ancient stone carvings of Buddha. It was not just because of the polytheistic beliefs of Buddha, but because the dictators wanted to make it clear - history begins with us.

Before them, Emperor Chin of China did it, and then built his famous wall to keep foreign ideas out of his country, and his people corralled inside. Centuries before Chin, Egyptian pharaohs destroyed the temples and tombs of predecessors whose history they deemed to be a threat.

When the Continental Congress assigned John Adams, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence, the three men, plus their colleagues understood the significance of the job. They truly were 're-inventing the wheel' when they set out to create a unique form of government, a hybrid that established a representative democracy. It was not sufficient to stop British repression of the people of the thirteen colonies. This document had to clearly state the sacred dignity of all people in a government based on laws, not blind obedience to a cult leader. It would be a country ruled by law, not the whim of a single individual or a small group. For officials and citizens alike, there would be checks and balances so the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness would be protected.

Like the anonymous woman who questioned Ben Franklin about this new government, the answer remains and continues to challenge us to do our part: A democracy - if we can keep it.

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Allegan Public School District offers SUN Meals to-Go

By Gari Voss

The Allegan Public School District confirmed that it would be offering summer meal bags each Wednesday from 11am to 12:30pm at L.E. White Middle School now through August 20, 2025. Food Service Director Lisa Jilek holds the Meet Up and Eat Up sign with the help of her many assistants and recipients. Photo courtesy of APS

The Allegan Public School District is offering summer meals each Wednesday thanks to the U. S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and the Michigan Department of Education. The USDA has made available three programs – SUN Meals or the Summer Food Service Program, SUN Meals To-Go in rural areas, and SUN Bucks or the Summer EBT.

"To grow, learn, and be healthy, Michigan children need nutritious food—not just from school meals during the school year, but also during their summer vacations," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. "Improving the health, safety, and wellness of all learners is Goal 3 on Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan."

Allegan is participating in the SUN To-Go program so children in Allegan County have access to healthy food.

"The program is open to students and kids 18 and under, who reside in Allegan County," explained APS Food Service Director Lisa Jilek. "We are distributing meals at L.E. White Middle School on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants have to be in line by 12:30 to receive meals for the week. There is no need to sign up. The menu is posted on site on distribution day. A copy is also included in the meal bags."

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) officials are sharing information about the three key U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) no-cost summer nutrition programs. MDE administers two of the programs. The SUN Bucks is administered automatically to school-aged children whose families receive SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or other specific income-based benefits.

The two MDE-administered programs under the Summer Food Service Program, also known as Meet Up and Eat Up in Michigan, are SUN Meals and SUN Meals To-Go. In 2024, children accessed nearly 7 million healthy meals at more than 1,400 SUN Meal and SUN Meals To-Go sites throughout Michigan.

"Michigan children and their families shouldn't have to worry about going hungry over summer break," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel.

"Summer break is a time when many children lose access to the reliable meals they receive at school, placing them at risk of hunger and malnutrition. The Summer EBT Program, in addition to our other nutrition assistance programs, like WIC and SNAP, helps us close the summer hunger gap by providing every eligible child with nutritious food, addressing one of the key social determinants of health, food insecurity."

The Summer Food Service Program is administered by MDE through funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is available to children 18 and under regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, including gender identity, and sexual orientation, age, or disability.

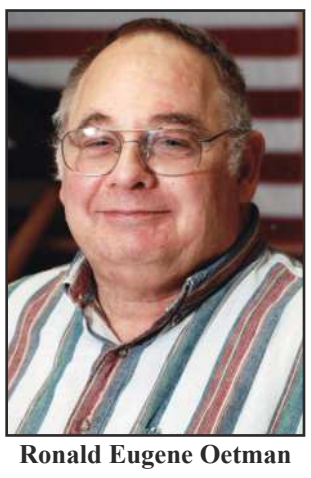
While funding for the summer meal programs is still in place, federal dollars for universally free school meals for public school students during the school year are in jeopardy due to proposed federal cuts to food assistance benefits and Medicaid.

"Michigan children win with the availability of free meals both during the school year and over their summer break," said Dr. Diane Golzynski, deputy superintendent for the MDE Division of Business, Health, and Library Services. "It's important for Congress and the Michigan Legislature to continue to support programs that feed children."

Meals can be picked up each Wednesday beginning at 11am at L.E. White Middle School through August 20, 2025. Remember, those desiring packets must be in line by 12:30pm.

Obituaries

Ronald Eugene Oetman, 78



Ronald Eugene Oetman

Ronald Eugene Oetman, 78, of Grand Rapids, MI passed away Monday, June 23, 2025, at the Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids. Born June 21, 1947, in Holland, MI, he was the son of the late Gerrit John and Irene Joyce (Boerman) Oetman. Ronald was a proud veteran having served honorably in the United States Army.

Ronald is survived by his brother, David (Sandy) Oetman; sister, Diane Groh; niece and nephews, Kacey Snyder, Jeff Sousley, Kristofer Oetman, Kevin Oetman and Jerid Harwood; several great-nieces and great-nephews; and the kind staff members and friends at the VA home that were truly like family. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Judith Cates and brother in-law Daniel Groh; and his nephew, Ryan Harwood.

Ronald's family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staffs of the Michigan Veteran Homes and the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center for the wonderful care they provided over the last seventeen years.

A celebration of Ronald's life will take place on Friday, July 11, 2025, at The Silo 1071 32nd Street, Allegan, MI 49010, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. He will be laid to rest in Hudson Corners Cemetery. Contributions in Ronald's memory may be made to Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids 2950 Monroe Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

Ricki Kae Eastman, 78

Ricki Kae Eastman

Ricki Kae Eastman, 78, of Pullman, MI, passed away Friday, June 20, 2025, at her home with her family at her side. Born August 13, 1946, in Grand Rapids, MI, she was the daughter of the late Robert T. and Beverly (Hamilton) Eckhardt-Ring and was the wife of Donald Paul "Butch" Eastman. Ricki loved to sew, knitting and crocheting. She made tons of quilts and afghans that she shared with family and friends over the years. Ricki was also an amazing cook and especially enjoyed baking and decorating delicious cakes. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and will be greatly missed by those who loved her.

In addition to her husband, Ricki is survived by her children, Kenneth (Jill) Eastman and Lawrence (Shannon) Eastman; grandchildren, Noah, Parker, Cooper, Landon, Zack (Ashley), , and Josh (Kynsey) Eastman and Tara (Nathan) Wiebold; great-grandchildren, Maecey, Alaina, Haven, and Ayla; and siblings, Shelley (Ivan) Busfield and Julie (Ray) Barnes. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her grandchild, Cortnee Eastman; and her sister, Nancy Ring.

The family will receive friends at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel, on Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A funeral service will begin at 11:00 AM at the funeral home. Ricki will be laid to rest immediately following in Rowe Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Holland, 270 Hoover Blvd., Holland, MI, 49423.

Obituaries

Melvin J. Revor, 81

Melvin J. Revor, 81, of Pullman, passed away Sunday, June 29, 2025 at Bronson Hospital. Melvin was born December 13, 1943 in Chicago, son of the late Vince and Dorris Revor and had lived in the area for the majority of his life. Melvin honorably served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, serving during Vietnam. Following his military career he worked at Pullman Industry and Rockwell International until retirement. Melvin enjoyed working in his shop at home, especially tinkering on big engines. Surviving is his wife of 44 years, Janet. He was preceded in death by his parents and his step father, Kenneth McDowell. Following his wishes cremation has taken place and no services are being planned. Arrangements entrusted to the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

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LIVING WITH GRIEF

BY RONNIE EWING/ AFTERCARE SPECIALIST

LIVING WITH GRIEF, is a monthly column provided by GordenFuneral Residence. Each month LIVING WITH GRIEF will feature some helpful advice as you the reader move forward through your personal grieving process, or simply want to be educated to help those whom you may know have recently experienced a loss, or traumatic event.

Crisis is no joke! Its ability to cripple us is not a joking manner. One minute you are enjoying life, then BAM! But what if I shared with you that it's negative grip is not as tight as we like to think. Im not saying crisis, trauma, or loss is light situation, it's not. But, if one can set up an internal self-care plan when it's time to put up your dukes, the negative blow is not as severe as it would be without a cognitive plan of action. What you need is a triangle of thought. Your base needs a foundation. The middle needs direction. Top is where the action is.

A foundation is a support system that can be where you put your root down. For me, this is where my Faith is. Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all who are burdened, and I will give you rest. Learn from me, I am gentle and lowly in heart. And you will find rest for your soul."

A true solid foundation. Next, He helps to aid in my direction to lead me to whatever I need. Whether its a support group, social activity, or counseling. These outlets can give me the tools I need to arrive at a summit, and take action. This is how I've been able to soften the blow, or loosen the grip in crisis. What ever your foundation is, hopefully its a solid one and able to help you create an action plan as you keep on, LIVING WITH GRIEF.

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Hitchcock's family finds 40 samples while digging for Richard's remains

Ater receiving multiple tips about a specific location, the family of Richard Hitchcock has begun searching for his remains in Allegan.

Family members spent the weekend digging and turned over 40 samples to be processed by law enforcement and a lab.

Richard Hitchcock disappeared on December 22, 1990, after leaving the Riverfront Lounge in Allegan. His family recently started digging at an undisclosed location following a third tip they received after the property owner passed away.

"If this ends up being our spot and this brings us Richie and his remains, we know," Kellie Boers, Richard's cousin, said.

The family has received tips about this specific location for eight years, with the most recent one coming earlier this year.

"The homeowner passed away and we were contacted again with this third tip. I went to the home and I asked if we could come and do it. And they said yes," Boers said.

After weeks of planning, the family brought in search dogs and radar to the location and began digging.

"The dogs hit both inside and outside. Scent in general will travel through tree roots," Boers said.

The family has worked closely with Allegan cold case detectives on Richard's disappearance since the beginning.

Mahan Park hosts a hot night of theater

By Gari Voss

Theater in the Park hosted by the Allegan Community Players (ACP) brought audiences of 140+ on Sat., June 21 and Sun., June 22, 2025, to the newly renovated Mahan Park on Allegan's Riverfront to enjoy two world premiere presentations. Those who braved the warm (make that hot) temperatures for the evening performances were treated to energetic acting of the two hilarious plays. Top: *Soccer Mom Mom* brought chuckles and memories (Matt Flora, Jane Holewa, Rick Moll). Bottom: *They Came for Human Beans* left the audience in stitches wondering what to believe. (David Clement-Horton, Tim Morris, Lane Bright, Linda Havens, Kassidy Bright). Both plays were written by an ACP ensemble member precisely with the Theater in the Park format in mind.

The Allegan Community Players is believed to be the oldest continuous community players group in Michigan. The production team is currently casting for their fall production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Along with choosing those performing on stage, there is a need for set designers and carpenters, costume designers, makeup and hair designers and stagehands plus those who can assist with front of the house duties. Those wishing to be part of a wonderful company for this production can contact Allegan Community Players (ACP) at allegancommunityplayers@gmail.com. Photo courtesy of S. Kunetz

TAG Team spotlights exemplary youth

By Gari Voss

The development of leadership skills is often focused on business members at all levels, but the Allegan County Community Foundation has created a program that develops leadership skills in teens across Allegan County. Each year, youth from area high schools step forward to accept the call to be the voice of babies through high schoolers in the county.

TAG equals Teens Aiding Growth. The team originated in 1994 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Perrigo executives to establish a Youth Endowment Fund. Since that time, the first task of the TAG Team is to make decisions regarding the disbursement of grant funds to non-profits that serve ages 0 – 18 years old. Each year, they award approximately $60,000 to non-profit organizations.

In 2025, the Team awarded 15 organizations funds that included medical care, basic needs, behavioral health, education and enriching experiences. Vicki Knuckles, ACCF Grants Program Officer stated, "The TAG Members take this process very seriously. They review, consider, and discuss all aspects of the proposal submitted."

In 2006, the Team began reviewing scholarship applications and awarding scholarships to high school graduates who are choosing to pursue careers in fields that align with the TAG Team's mission.

Community engagement is a high priority for the TAG Team. Each member participates in various community service events and activities. This gets the youth's voice out into the communities and demonstrates a positive representation. A favorite project is their Adopt-a-Family to support those at Sylvia's Place.

The TAG Team meets monthly during the school year. During their meetings, they participate in exercises that improve their leadership skills. Sharing information regarding their communities and the needs of the youth population in those communities helps build a broader understanding of what other youth face. That understanding is valuable when reviewing grant and scholarship applications.

When a student commits to the TAG Team, they're committing to community service, leadership, and lifting up the voices of youth across Allegan County. From volunteering with nonprofits to awarding over $60,000 in grants each year, and selecting TAG scholarship recipients, these students make a real difference.

"We're seeking students from Martin, Wayland, and Hopkins, but any high schooler in Allegan County is welcome to apply" shared Amanda Chappell, Program Officer and Scholarships, "If you or someone you know is passionate about making a difference, apply now!"

If you wonder how being a member of the TAG Team has affected students, listen to the stories of members.

"My name is Audrey. I am a junior at Saugatuck High School, and I have been on the TAG Team for 3 years now. Starting this year, I was the Chair of the Tag Team. This gave me many opportunities to lead group in discussions on different topics, send out important messages and reminders to the team in between meetings, and find activities for the team to do together to build team bonding. But even outside my role, TAG has allowed me to be a leader for my community and show other people my age that teenagers, though we are young, can have a big impact on other people's lives and their community."

Audrey continued, "TAG has also taught me of the problems that teens, even at my own school, are struggling with and has given me resources and organizations that I can suggest to these students so they can get the help they need. TAG is where I learned my love for helping others. It is what encouraged me to join other groups at my school like PALs where their goal is the same as TAG's: help teens in need. I will be going into my last year of TAG in the fall, and it is so bittersweet. I am excited to begin a new year of giving back to the community, but I am saddened that this is it for me and the TAG team. It has been such a positive experience for me, and I am forever grateful that I got to be a part of such a wonderful group."

Ellija Ziemelis, a junior from Allegan High School, explained, "This was my first year on TAG. I was able to build my leadership through working with the team to promote our youth needs assessment and by working to advocate for different grants during the review process. TAG has influenced my life by helping me learn how to work with and for the community. It also made me think about how I can give back to the community in the future."

For more information about the TAG Team and becoming a member, contact Amanda Chappell at achappell@alleganfoundation.org or 269-673-8344 x 203. This could be the opportunity of a lifetime.

The Youth Endowment Fund does accept contributions from supporters and works at raising funds which allow the Team to award additional grants and scholarships across Allegan County. Donations can be made to the Youth Endowment or TAG Team Scholarship Fund at https://alleganfoundation.org/. For additional information email info@alleganfoundation.org.

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Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Board of Education of the Wayland Union SCHOOLS: WAYLAND will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.9239 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2025

The hearing will be held on Monday, July 14 at 4:00pm at Wayland Union Administration Office, 850 E. Superior St.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 5.31% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 4.62% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Beacon Health System completes acquisition of Ascension

Beacon Health System announced the completion of its acquisition of Ascension Southwest Michigan. Beacon now operates four additional hospitals, 35 outpatient clinics and an ambulatory surgery center in southwest Michigan. These hospitals include Beacon Kalamazoo (formerly Borgess), a 422-bed acute care hospital, along with Beacon Allegan (formerly Borgess Allegan), Beacon Dowagiac (formerly Borgess-Lee) and Beacon Plainwell (formerly Borgess-Pipp).

Beacon announced the definitive agreement to acquire these facilities in April. The completed acquisition brings more than 2,700 associates, including 259 providers, into the Beacon family.

"Today marks an important new chapter as we come together, and we couldn't be more excited about what we'll accomplish as one unified team dedicated to serving our communities," said Kreg Gruber, Beacon's Chief Executive Officer. "This acquisition represents our continued commitment to strengthening health care in our region. Our patients will benefit from access to an expanded network of services and providers."

The acquisition gives southwest Michigan patients greater access to Beacon's specialized services close to home. Beacon also becomes a partner with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, home to more than 240 residents and fellows in 14 programs, enhancing the health system's commitment to medical education and training.

"As a locally governed nonprofit organization, we remain committed to a community focus, driven by our mission to deliver outstanding care, inspire health and connect with heart," Gruber said. "Our commitment to exceptional care is what makes our organization strong, and now together with our new associates and providers, we're stronger than ever." For current patients and community members who may have questions, visit BeaconHealthSystem.org/Bright-Future.

Wayland man dies after falling 30 feet

A 24-year-old man died in Ludington after falling about 30 feet from a boom lift that made contact with live electrical lines on Saturday, June 29, according to police.

The man, from Wayland, was operating the lift near West Ludington Avenue and Robert Street on Saturday morning, when it came in contact with the electrical lines, causing him to fall, the Ludington Police Department said on Facebook.

Officers found the man unresponsive and not breathing, according to police. Police and two bystanders tried lifesaving efforts on the man before Ludington Fire Department and Life EMS paramedics arrived. The man was taken to Corewell Health Ludington where he died of his injuries, according to police.

The man was employed by a gutter installation company, and Ludington police said they are investigating the incident as a fatal industrial accident.

Anyone with information about the incident should contact Det. Jacob Miller at miller209@ci.ludington.mi.us, according to police.

Church sponsors coffee hour for vets

On Tuesday Morning July 8th beginning at 9am, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 631 Grand Street, Allegan will be having a coffee hour for all veterans who have served or are currently serving in our military forces. This is a time to gather, have fellowship with other vets, share conversation, and enjoy coffee and donuts/rolls. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (269)673-3335.

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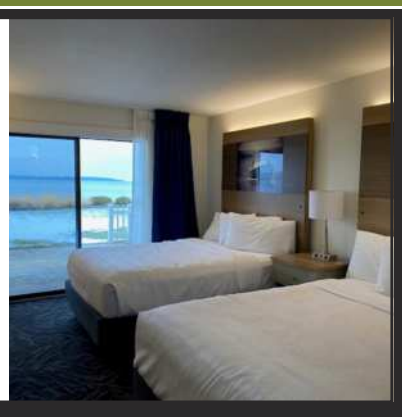

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M-89 road project begins between Otsego and Allegan

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

If you're going to be traveling on M-89 between Otsego and Allegan for the next several months, you might want to give yourself some extra time.

On Monday, June 30, crews with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) began working on a nearly 7-mile stretch of M-89 from the Kalamazoo River in Otsego to 29th Street in Allegan.

This stretch of road, also known as Lincoln Road, will undergo improvements such as chip sealing, joint repair and crack sealing.

Weekday lane closures will be in effect between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. during the duration of the project, which is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Both directions of traffic will share one lane and alternate via traffic regulators.

According to Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, this project is just one of many that will improve roads across the state.

"Across Michigan, we are moving dirt and fixing the damn roads to grow our economy, helping Michiganders go to work, drop their kids off at school and run errands safely," Whitmer said. "By the end of this construction season, we will have fixed, repaired or replaced nearly 24,500 lane miles of roads and 1,900 bridges, supporting thousands of good-paying, local jobs without raising taxes by a dime.

"This year, let's build on our momentum to pass a bipartisan local road funding plan so we can keep fixing our damn roads and creating good-paying, local jobs."

The project will cost an estimated $1.3 million and will "improve drainage and extend the service life of the roadway," MDOT said in a press release.

It's estimated that 12 jobs will be directly or indirectly supported by the project.

School supply drive underway in Otsego until July 28

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Local students are still in the early stages of summer break.

But before they know it, it will be time to head back to the classroom for the start of the 2025-26 school year.

And Together Otsego Prospers (TOP) and Otsego Public Schools want to make sure every students has the supplies they need to make the upcoming school year a successful one.

Now through Monday, July 28, a school supply drive is being held, with drop-off locations at Otsego City Hall (900 Dix St.) and Harvest & Home (103 W. Allegan St.) in Otsego.

The supplies will be distributed on Wednesday, July 30, at the Back to School Bash as part of the final Summer Fun Days series at Northside Park. Lunch—which is free for those 18 and younger—starts at 12 p.m., with the school-supply giveaway starting at 1 p.m.

"For many of the children who attend this event, these supplies aren't just helpful—they're essential," TOP and OPS said in a release. "Without community support, many of these kids would begin the school year without basic tools like backpacks, notebooks, pencils or folders.

"Your donation helps ease the burden on families who are struggling to make ends meet and ensures that every child walks into school with confidence, dignity and the supplies they need to learn."

Donations can be made at City Hall and Harvest & Home during regular business hours.

"This isn't just about paper and pencils; it's about showing kids that their community sees them, supports them and believes in their future," officials said in their release.

Items that can be donated include: large backpacks; crayons; colored pencils; markers; pens; pencils; notebooks; calculators; scissors; folders; binders; trapper keepers with handles; and index cards.

"These donations support all children in our broader community, not just those living in Otsego," officials said. "Families from neighboring towns and counties are welcomed with open arms, and there are no residency or income requirements to receive supplies or meals."

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of Public Hearing
City of Otsego Planning Commission
Master Plan Update

Please take notice that the City of Otsego Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing during a meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 7:00 PM, at the City of Otsego – City Commission Chambers, 117 E. Orleans Street, Otsego, MI 49078, for the purpose of considering a proposed Master Plan update. The public hearing will provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the 2025 City of Otsego Master Plan, a guide for the use, development, and preservation of land in the City.

Copies of the proposed Master Plan update are available for public viewing during regular business hours at City Hall or on the city website, www.cityofotsego.org
Written comments will be received at the following address until the night of the hearing:

City Clerk
City of Otsego
117 E. Orleans Street
Otsego MI 49078

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are planning to attend this hearing and are disabled requiring any special assistance, please notify the City Clerk by calling 269-692-3391, as soon as possible.

Angela Cronen, City Clerk
City of Otsego Planning Commission

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B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS

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Thursday, July 3, 2025

Press Box Perspective

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Words can hurt

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

I'm not sure how often this old rhyme is recited these days, but I heard it plenty of times growing up. The implication is simple: while objects like sticks and stones can cause physical harm and should be avoided, words are harmless—something we're expected to brush off, ignore, or forget.

This is, of course, well-meaning advice.

It also happens to be completely wrong.

The truth is, words can cut just as deeply—if not more so—than physical injuries.

Case in point: a situation that recently played out during a Major League Baseball game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the host Chicago White Sox.

With Arizona's Ketel Marte coming to bat in the top of the seventh inning, a fan began heckling the All-Star second baseman.

The topic? Marte's mother.

Sadly, this isn't all that surprising, as mothers have long been the subject of heckling — both in and out of sports.

What made this situation far worse?

Marte's mother tragically passed away in a car accident in 2017.

The incident clearly affected him. Marte was visibly crying as he took his position at second base in the bottom of the inning. During a pitching change, Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo put his arm around Marte to console him.

"It was a terrible moment," Lovullo said after the game. "Fans are nasty, and fans go too far sometimes. I love my players and I'm going to protect them. I've known Ketel for nine years and he's had some unbelievably great moments. Some hardships as well, and some really, really tough moments in his life, and I know those.

"We can take a lot. We sign up and we are in uniform to take a lot," Lovullo continued. "We're prepared for that. But when you cross a line — and it's a very firm, bold line — we become human beings."

The fan, who later apologized for the comments, was ejected from the game and ultimately banned from all MLB stadiums indefinitely.

And this wasn't an isolated case.

Earlier this year, a fan in Cleveland heckled Boston outfielder Jarren Duran about his suicide attempt in 2022 — something Duran opened up about in a Netflix documentary about the Red Sox.

I'm sure there are still people who will argue that Marte and Duran should simply ignore the comments. That they're being "soft" and need to "man up."

I've even known coaches who have intentionally used belittling words in an effort to "toughen up" their athletes. And I'm not talking about professionals—this was at the high school level.

In this day and age when we know the importance of mental health and how deeply harmful words can be, we must be better. All of us—fans, players, coaches.

You never know what someone is going through. And we're all in this great adventure called life together.

So let's show some empathy. And let's think before we speak.

Because the words you say today can leave a lasting impact—for better or for worse.

Allegan Summer Open draws rave reviews

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

On Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, the inaugural Allegan Summer Open took place at Gary Ellis Courts near L.E. White Middle School.

Allegan High School tennis coach Damien Arthur—who organized the event—said the tournament was a rousing success.

"The feedback has been incredible," Arthur said. "A few varsity coaches reached out to let me know their kids really enjoyed the event and had a blast. I'm really thrilled with the positive response we received."

The tournament featured the following events: Boys 18-U and 14-U Singles; Girls 18-U and 14-U Singles; Boys and Girls 18-U Doubles; 14-U Doubles; and 18-U Mixed Doubles.

Players from at least seven cities participated, coming from as far away as Ludington.

In addition to Allegan and Ludington, cities represented included Hamilton, Otsego, Paw Paw, Portage and Caledonia.

"We had 36 singles players across the divisions and 19 doubles teams across the divisions," Arthur said. "It was a great opportunity for players of all ages to get in some match play, against some great competition."

The affordability of the tournament was also a big hit, according to Arthur.

"If you played in all three events—singles, doubles and mixed doubles—it would have cost you $39 total," he said. "Most USTA tournaments are more expensive than that for just one event.

"Coaches, players and parents were really happy with an affordable event that still created an atmosphere of competitiveness driven by sportsmanship."

Several Allegan players shined at the event, highlighted by a championship for Taylor Fuller and Hanna Kievit at Girls 18-U Doubles. In the finals, the team of Fuller/Kievit outlasted the Otsego team of Sara McCaw and Stella Houseman for the 2-4, 5-3, 10-6 victory.

Other solid performances for Allegan were:

* Girls 18-U Singles Consolation Champion: Sophia Augustine
* Boys 14-U Singles Runner-up: Cam Knoepke
* Girls 14-U Singles Champion: Ava Thompson
* Girls 14-U Singles Runner-up: Madison Knoepke
* 14-U Doubles Champions: Ava Kievit/Savannah Woodhams
* 14-U Doubles Consolation Champions: Ellowyn Waanders/Deacon Morgan

"We had a great turnout for our first year running this event, and the tennis was super competitive," Arthur said. "Thank you to all of those that participated, and a special shout out to our hometown Tigers for taking home some hardware.

"This gave my high school and middle school players some valuable experience in terms of matchplay and seeing players outside of Allegan. It was a great opportunity to help our players grow and develop their games. I was very happy with the Allegan turnout for this event."

The idea for the tournament came from Paw Paw boys varsity coach Matt Baleja, who wanted to provide additional playing opportunities for players in the area.

"(Baleja) asked if I would put on this event in hopes of creating a mini circuit for players in Southwest Michigan to get some experience outside of our normal summer programs. Paw Paw has been running a tournament the last few years at the end of July, so he thought it would be good to run one in June.

"Now, we're hoping to maybe find another host to run one in the future to have more events. So the credit goes to him for pushing me to do it. I'm glad we were able to make it happen."

Although this was the first Allegan Summer Open, Arthur is no stranger when it comes to organizing tournaments. In addition to running several high school events, he also helps with the Lions Club Tournament that concludes the Allegan Summer Tennis Program each year.

"Running the tournament brackets was just like any event we run during our high school season," he said. "Trying to keep the tournament flowing as efficiently as possible was, always, a focus.

"Leading up to the event was a little different than what I am used to. You just have no clue who is going to sign up and how big the draws will be until that last day of sign-ups. For high school seasons, you know how many players and teams will be in attendance, and same with Lions Club.

"It was a new experience for me, but definitely one I will do again for the kids in Southwest Michigan."

Arthur hopes that this tournament and the one held in Paw Paw will help expose even more youth players to the sport.

"Tennis can be a very expensive sport to play, and that can be a barrier to our great game for some," he said. "Having tournaments like the Allegan Summer Open and Paw Paw's tournament help foster a great experience for players who want to play tennis.

"Giving kids as many opportunities as possible will help gain interest in our sport, and hopefully help grow the great game of tennis."

Allegan's Hanna Kievit and Taylor Fuller (at left) outlasted Otsego's Stella Houseman and Sara McCaw (at right) in the Girls 18-U Doubles division at the Allegan Summer Open.

Top Senior Student-Athletes: Martin

Ellyse Blackburn

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

To say recent Martin High School graduate Ellyse Blackburn maintained a busy schedule the past four years would be an understatement.

In addition to playing four years each of volleyball, bowling, soccer and track & field, she also ran cross country for two years.

"I enjoy the competitiveness of sports," Blackburn said. "The feeling after you've tried your best or won a game is unbeatable. Even if I lose, I still like to reflect and have a postgame debrief with my parents on the car ride home."

Speaking of Blackburn's parents, they played a key role in her athletic career, serving as her coaches in bowling and track & field throughout her high school days.

"Obviously, my parents have been pretty important when it comes to my athletics," Blackburn said.

While she enjoyed having her parents, Blackburn admitted it did pose some additional challenges.

"I loved having my parents as coaches, but it definitely wasn't a walk in the park," she said. "Some people would just think that I had it easy because I was the coaches' daughter. However, that was never the case.

"Because they were my coaches, I never got out of anything easy. I had to do more to earn my place. I had to push harder than anyone else on the team and they expected more out of me."

In addition to her parents, Blackburn listed JV volleyball coach Shannon Goddard as having a big influence on her, both on the court and off.

"All my coaches meant a lot to me, contributing to who I am as an athlete today," Blackburn said. "But the coach who had the biggest impact on me was Shannon Goddard. She taught me the importance of

■ see **Blackburn**, Page B2

Ellyse Blackburn (left) listed soccer as her favorite sport. (Photo provided)

Gavin Meyers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—Most high school athletes never get the opportunity to experience the thrill of winning a state championship.

As a member of the Martin football team, recent Martin High School graduate Gavin Meyers was fortunate enough to have that opportunity twice.

It was the second of those state titles during Meyers' junior season in 2023 that stands out as the most memorable moment of his high school athletic career.

And for good reason.

Trailing 26-14 with 1:15 left in the 8-Player Division 1 state finals, the Clippers scored two touchdowns—both with successful 2-point conversions—to pull off the stunning 30-26 victory in comeback fashion.

The first of those TDs came on a 10-yard pass from Meyers to Teagan Harris, with Meyers racing 21 yards for the second.

"That game was by far the favorite memory I have from high school sports," Meyers said. "Those final few minutes were some of the memorable and craziest moments of mine while playing football or any sport."

Speaking of other sports, Meyers also participated in basketball and track for all four years at Martin in addition to doing so in football.

But the gridiron held a special place in his heart.

■ see **Meyers**, Page B2

Gavin Meyers loved being on the football field during his career at Martin. (Photo provided)

Blackburn ■ *from Page B1*

putting in the time to get better as an individual and working together to get better as a team.

"Even after she wasn't my coach, she still helped me stay positive as I faced obstacles and continued to teach me volleyball and other important life lessons along the way."

One of the other life lessons Blackburn learned as a result of participating in athletics was the importance of acceptance.

"I would have to accept my wins, my losses, whoever was on my team," she said. "Sure, I can make a game plan, work hard, practice skills and do my best. But at the end of the game, I have to accept what has happened, learn from it and move on to the next competition. Not everything in life goes to plan, so I'll have to accept whatever happens."

When it came to soccer, one of the things Blackburn had to accept was playing with teammates she initially didn't know very well.

Since Martin doesn't have its own girls soccer team, it entered into a co-op with Delton.

"I've been playing soccer since I was five and it has always been a reliable, fun sport for me," she said. "I enjoy the skill level it takes to play it and the feeling of scoring a goal, because it doesn't happen often.

"And because we co-op with Delton Kellogg, soccer gave me the chance to work with teammates that I compete against in other seasons."

By comparison, Blackburn was quite familiar with her teammates in the other sports she played.

"Playing sports for Martin, we were very close-knit teams," she said. "You would find the same group of athletes on each team. No matter the sport, we all played them together. Because of this we became very close teammates and well-rounded athletes."

A favorite sports-related memory for Blackburn came in bowling when the team made history by qualifying for the State Finals for the first time.

"Bowling with my team, having energy, singing catchy chants when someone got a spare or strike, and then at the end of the day finding out that we got second place and were advancing to the State Finals for the first time in Martin history is something I'll never forget," she said.

Blackburn also stayed busy outside of sports. She was part of TAG (Teens Aiding Growth) Team for three years; participated in student council for three years; was class vice president for three years; and was a member of the National Honor Society for two years.

It should come as no surprise, then, that she has some big goals post-graduation.

"My plans are to attend Saginaw Valley State University on a full-ride scholarship to major in psychology and pre-medicine," she said.

Her goal is to become a pediatrician.

Ellyse Blackburn participated in five sports during her time at Martin High School. (Photo provided)

Meyers ■ *from Page B1*

"Football was my favorite because we have a great team and the environment we played in every Friday night was amazing," he said.

A big part of that environment came from the support of the Martin community, which seemed to come out in full force each Friday (or Saturday, as the case might be) to support the Clippers.

"Playing sports for a community like Martin was great," Meyers said. "The people in the community always show support."

That small-town environment is something that can't be replicated, according to Meyers.

"Being in a small community you have a lot of pride, so it only motivates you more to play your best," he said.

Martin football coach Brad Blauvelt knows all about that small-town pride, as he grew up playing for the Clippers in football, basketball and baseball before returning to the community as a teacher and coach.

The mentorship provided by Blauvelt is something Meyers will also cherish.

"Coach Blauvelt was a very impactful person to me not just in athletics, but my entire career at Martin High School," Meyers said. "He is such a great role model to me and I can't thank him enough for everything he did for me.

"He taught me a lot about being a man and how to show up every day and work. His impact on my life has helped me greatly. He is one of the best human beings I know."

Meyers, who began his athletic career in elementary school, said what initially drew him to athletics was the opportunity to hang out with friends. Soon, though, he realized how much he enjoyed seeing the improvement he was making on the field, court and track.

Meyers hopes to continue to improve on the gridiron at Kalamazoo College, where he plans to study business and join the football team.

"I've learned a lot from athletics, including the importance of staying consistent and never giving up no matter what situation you find yourself in," Meyers said. "I plan to use those lessons in college and throughout my life."

Gavin Meyers plays defense during a basketball game for Martin. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Gavin Meyers plays during the 8-Player Division 1 State Finals. (Photo provided)

MHSAA officials registration underway for '25-26

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is accepting registrations online or by mail for game officials for the 2025-26 school year.

The MHSAA registered 8,891 officials for the 2024-25 school year, another of a recent series of increases as registrations continue to trend back to pre-COVID totals.

All officials who register may sign up for up to two sports as part of their registration.

Officials also will receive membership in the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), which comes with a variety of educational and training resources and the NASO's Shield liability insurance that will provide $6 million in coverage for officials while they are working both MHSAA and non-MHSAA events.

For new and returning officials, a $70 fee covers registration for up to two sports. Officials may register for additional sports at $16 per sport.

To avoid a $30 late fee, all fall sport registration applications must be received by Aug. 18, 2024. Winter sports registrations must be received by Nov. 17 to avoid the late fee, and spring sports registrations must be received by March 25, 2026.

Online registration can be accessed by clicking "Officials" on the home page of the MHSAA Website at https://www.mhsaa.com.

More information about officials registration may be obtained by contacting the MHSAA by phone at (517) 332-5046 or by e-mail at register@mhsaa.com.

There is an officials' registration test for first-time officials, derived from the MHSAA *Officials Guidebook*. New officials and those who didn't officiate during 2024-25 also must complete the online MHSAA Principles of Officiating course.

Additional exams must be taken by those registering for football or basketball for the first time or those who were not registered for those sports during the previous school year.

Links to the *Officials Guidebook*, Principles of Officiating presentation and the football and basketball mechanics manuals can be found by following the "New Officials" link on the Officials page of the MHSAA Website.

There also are opportunities to officiate for students at least 14 years old and in grades 9-12 through the MHSAA Legacy Program.

Juniors and seniors may officiate sub-varsity contests, while freshmen and sophomores may officiate contests at the middle school/junior high levels. Mentor officials will work events with Legacy participants to provide guidance and support.

Find information on the Legacy Program by clicking "Officials Registration" on the Officials page of the MHSAA Website and reading under "Student Legacy Program Requirements."

Ranked Choice Voting grows in Michigan

By Gari Voss

Grassroot efforts are in full swing to bring Ranked Choice Voting (RVC) to Michigan. Teams are covering the state, including Allegan County, to educate voters on what RCV is and how it works. For people who have been involved with surveys and how they work, there are similarities in that voters can choose their favorites. The proponents believe that Ranked Choice Voting ensures that candidates with the best ideas, rather than the biggest bank accounts, have a fair shot at running and winning.

On Friday, June 27, 2025, RCV announced that the "Rank MI Vote" petition 100-word summary was approved by the Board of State Canvassers. The Field Teams can now begin the statewide signature gathering efforts.

Ranked choice voting (RCV) is a proven voting method that has been used for major elections in the U.S. and other countries for over a century. Multi-winner RCV was invented in the 1850s as a proportional representation system to be used in multi-winner elections. In the 1870s, it was adapted to the single-winner format, which is sometimes referred to as instant runoff voting (IRV), preferential voting, proportional representation, or single transferable vote (STV). In short, it ensures that the winner of an elections garners more than 50% of the votes.

RCV is already being used across the country in a wide range of jurisdictions. As of the 2022 elections, RCV had been adopted in 62 jurisdictions. Some prominent examples include:

Alaska; Maine; New York City; Cambridge, MA; Minneapolis, MN; and San Francisco, CA.

RCV has also been used to nominate candidates for a general election. It was used by 2020 Democratic primary voters in Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, and Wyoming. Additionally, RCV was used by the Virginia Republican Party to select their nominees for statewide offices and select congressional districts in 2021.

How RCV Works

When voters go to the poll, they are handed a ballot. That ballot looks much like a current ballot, but instead of choosing just one candidate, the voter will rank the candidates as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choices and so on. Just like a survey might ask a person to rank their favorite flavors of ice cream.

The votes are then tallied by how many 1st place choices are given to each candidate. If none of the candidates reaches at least 50% of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is dropped, but those who voted for that candidate are not forgotten. Their second choices are then added to the results. If this helps one candidate move beyond 50%, the election is over, if not, the next lowest vote getter is dropped, and those who voted for that person have their second choice votes tallied into the mix to see if that will take one candidate over 50%.

In this way, the rounds continue until one candidate has the support of more than half the voters, and the voters' desires are not cast aside on the first round but continue to be relevant to the outcome of the election.

The system does not punish those who vote a straight ticket. It does require that voters become better acquainted with all of the candidates running for an office. Learning about other candidates encourages voters to find common likenesses and differences between candidates rather than judging them or assuming the candidates are known and understood.

Why it Matters

The Rank MI Vote (RMiV) supporters believe that many voters are tired of the power dominated by basically a two-party system when there are numerous party candidates that can bring solid ideas for solving problems. Because voters need to choose 2nd and 3rd choices, they are may wish to support the lesser known candidates whose votes never count because that candidate was not well enough known to win an election. The Ranked Choice Vote system encourages voters to learn about the positions of lesser known or underfunded candidates.

RCV also reduces the situation where a lesser known candidate distorts the outcome of an election. Winning requires a broad majority of support so a leading candidate must not only earn the support of their "party" but must receive support from other party voters. The front runners must stop belittling other candidates and sending toxic messages to their supporters. They need to work with all supporters to find areas of agreement and create consensus in order to earn their votes.

New York designed a simple video to demonstrate how RCV works. The video is available at https://rankmivote.org/what-how/.

The concept is gaining popularity around the United States, and RMiV organizers and supporters hope it will continue to gain ground in Michigan. RCV moves away from the candidate with the most money winning an election. And though it will eventually eliminate the lowest vote getters one at a time, those voters' desires continue to be meaningful.

In Michigan, the proposal to place an RCV proposition on the ballot has been approved in East Lansing, Royal Oak, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor and Ferndale. For more information, go to https://rankmivote.org/.

The process for this change must follow all of the steps for a constitutional change. Teams are crisscrossing the state to obtain the required signatures for a potential 2026 ballot proposal. Proponents feel ranked choice has the ability to reduce polarization, to increase voter turnout, and to gain consensus so winning candidates better reflect the views of the populace. The opposition feel it is more complicated, more partisan, and less transparent.

Though it is an uphill pull, advocates are working to spread their message through a variety of town halls and policy summits.

"This won't be easy, and the opposition is getting loud," stated Executive Director Pat Zabawa. "A few elected officials are already pushing back against our pro-democracy movement because they're afraid of being held accountable by the people they represent. And many are skeptical that we can get it done with only volunteers. They think we can't raise enough money, and they doubt the ability of our volunteers. Our volunteer-run grassroots effort is driven by everyday Michiganders, not shadowy special interest groups with lots of money to throw around."

The group of volunteers was founded in 2019 and has been entirely sustained by individual donors and grants with no sustaining corporate or national sources of income. Rank Mi Vote are determined to continue forward to reach their goals.

Smit: Ranked choice voting threatens election integrity

Opinion by Rachelle Smit

As a former local election clerk and now chair of the Michigan House Elections Committee, I know firsthand how important it is that our voting system be clear, transparent, and trusted by the people it serves. I've also seen how fragile voter confidence can be — and how quickly it can unravel under unnecessary complexity

That's why I introduced legislation to protect Michigan from the deeply flawed experiment known as Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Despite its clever branding, RCV is a confusing and chaotic process that would undermine public confidence in our elections, disenfranchise voters, and cost taxpayers' tens of millions of dollars to implement. It is a solution in search of a problem — and it doesn't belong in Michigan.

Under Ranked Choice Voting, voters are asked to rank candidates in order of preference. If no one wins a majority, the last-place candidates are eliminated in rounds, and their votes are redistributed until someone wins. This may sound interesting in theory — but in practice, it's a logistical nightmare.

RCV creates serious confusion at the ballot box. Voters are often unsure how to rank candidates, or whether ranking fewer or more candidates will help or hurt their vote. Many ballots end up being tossed out because of mistakes or skipped selections. Studies and real-world elections have shown that this disproportionately impacts minority voters and those who don't vote in every election. Instead of empowering voters, RCV risks silencing them. It doesn't strengthen democracy, it weakens it.

For our local election clerks, implementing RCV would be an administrative disaster. Our elections system was not designed for this kind of complexity. New machines, extensive retraining, and updated software would be required statewide — at enormous cost. And because tabulating RCV ballots can take weeks, voters are often left waiting far too long for final results.

Michigan voters deserve better. They want a voting process that's easy to understand, secure and fair — where every eligible voter can confidently cast a ballot and trust that it will be counted accurately and quickly. We cannot afford to trade their trust for a confusing, drawn-out process that only increases suspicion and opens the door to legal challenges in every close race.

The overwhelming majority of states have rejected RCV for good reason. Those that have tried it are now grappling with unintended consequences — invalidated votes, frustrated voters, delayed outcomes and bitter legal disputes. We shouldn't follow them down that road.

My years as a township clerk taught me that clear, straightforward election rules are the only way to maintain public trust. RCV, with its rounds of counting and reallocation, only breeds skepticism — especially when every close contest invites lawsuits and recount battles.

Michigan doesn't need ballot-box gymnastics. We need integrity, clarity, and confidence — qualities RCV cannot deliver.

State Rep. Rachelle Smit, R-Martin, is Speaker Pro Tempore for the Michigan House and also chairs the Michigan House Elections Committee.

On July Fourth, we celebrate the birthday of the United States of America and all the great things our nation represents. We're proud of our country and the values it upholds, and we gratefully salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who fight to defend America and her ideals. God bless the U.S.A.

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Equestrians ruled at Allegan 5-Day Clinic

By Gari Voss

Each summer, young equestrians gather at the Allegan County Fairgrounds to gain experience in bonding with their animals, improving their riding skills, and making friendships. The Allegan County 4-H Five-Day Horse Clinic, June 20-26, 2025, offered all this and more as the youth learned how to manage their horses and time in very warm weather.

The participants may, or may not, be members of 4-H horse clubs. The riders ranged from beginner to advanced. The classes offered included Ranch Ricing, English, Gymkhana, pleasure and more.

The instructors were skilled horse people who have coached and mentored many riders over the years.

The initial interaction included an evaluation of skills to determine if the camper would be best suited as a first-time participant, a past participant wishing to advance to a higher level, a past participant riding a new horse, or a first-time participant to jumping classes.

Evaluators Nora Balgoyen-Williams, Paul Balgoyen, Bri Fuerst, Tracy Fox, Shannon Dorman, Emily Brenner, Tara Beilby, Kerisa Desimone, and Pam McGill took extra time to review the skills and desires of each rider in order to schedule the proper classes.

Friday, June 20th began with registering 63 riders and horses then getting settled. By 2pm, the clinic participants had their orientations. Session Five classes began at 4pm followed by vet inspections, Session Six classes at 6pm then a fun evening at 8pm.

Saturday, June 21st offered a full day of sessions beginning at 8am and ending at 7:30pm. Between sessions, participants could check out the Tack Sale and do stall decorating that would be judged on Day Three. Again, the day ended with fun between 8 and 9pm.

Sunday, June 22nd mirrored Saturday, but added the judging of the stall decorations in the morning, and a potluck Ice Cream Social in the evening.

Monday, June 23rd, Day 4 kept everyone involved from 8am to 7:30pm in clinic sessions with adjustments made for weather.

Day 5: Ceremony found campers ready at 8am for Sessions One through Six with a bit of a change. At 6pm, the Gymkhana was set for that class' final session. The evening closed with the Award Ceremony and a Shaving Cream Fight that required competitors to wear goggles.

On Day 6, the participants were involved in Sessions One through Four. At 4pm, stalls were cleaned, check outs were had, and horses loaded.

"The clinic went very well," shared clinic leader Paul Balgoyen. "It was very warm for a few days, but we shortened ride times, and kids had time with instructors on ground work or without horses."

The 5-Day Horse Clinic is a learning experience for horses and riders, but it also offers the comradery of camp which can lead to long-term friendships. Fun was had decorating stalls with a Halloween theme, the "Potluck" Ice Cream Social and the Shaving Cream Fight which required a group hosing down.

All 64 participants of the Allegan County 4-H Five-Day Horse Clinic were evaluated for skills and riding levels. Instructors covered a variety of exercises that assisted riders in working with their horses. Photo: Rebecca Laarman

Then there are the awards. Naturally, awards were given for the Stall Decorating Contest. In addition, a Ripple Effect Award was donated by Tracy Fox for older youth who demonstrated 4-H values through assisting and teaching the younger participants. The Golden Nuggets were given for the cleanest stalls and full buckets of water each night, and those with nuggests could trade them for horse greats and candy.

Young people wishing to learn more about horses and improving their skills can check out the Horse Project on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/464801754204977/

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

We can't do anything about the weather, but we do talk about it. This week we are experiencing a heat wave. Let's talk. The question is, "Are you enjoying the warmer weather?"

-Couple at a farm stand on M-89: Woman: "No! You're kidding about enjoying it, I hope. Thank God for air conditioning." Man: "It's not so bad, you just have to ignore it and not let it bother you. That's what I keep telling the wife."

-Woman near the Fennville hardware store: "I don't mind it so much, but my husband and oldest boy are roofers. It's dangerous for them. I keep telling to drink plenty of water."

-Woman with her, "Yeah, and not any of those other sugary drinks, like Gatorade or something. It's not good for you after a while. Water is natural; it's best."

-Man near the Fennville grocery store: "Well, I saw it coming a while back, and they said it's going to be hot this summer. I stocked up on water bottles before there was a run on them. I'll probably stock up with some more today. You gotta drink water. You carrying a bottle with you? You ought to."

-Man near the Allegan Public Library: "Just waiting for them to open up. It's cooler in there and I can spend the day catching up on my reading."

-Woman with two children, same location: "They've got so much going on here, so we're going to spend lots of time here this summer."

--Woman near the Old Jail Museum: "I'll tell you what I miss. I wish I'd kept some instead of throwing them away. Old fashioned funeral home fans. You've probably seen them. They have a pretty picture on one side and advertising on the other, and you can fan yourself. I had a bunch of them but my daughter made me get rid of them."

-Couple near the Allegan Post Office: Man: "You know, the ones I feel sorry for were those fellows doing utility work on M-40. That's hot work out there."

Woman: "It's the same way for all those migrants doing farm work, too.

-Mother with two young children near the Regent: "We go out early for a walk, and then I keep them inside when the weather is too hot." Young girl: "She lets us put on our swimsuits and turns the hose on us." Laughs.

-Older man near Minnie's: "Growing up we had a big box fan in the window. One time I got the bright idea to soak a kitchen towel in cold water and wring it out, then out, and then tape it to the front of the fan. I thought I was helping to cool down the house, but Papa said it was just making more humidity inside. So much for my great ideas!"

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For The Record

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

July 3, 1950

Fireworks display to feature flying disc: "Flying saucers in fire" will headline the giant festival of fireworks scheduled for Tuesday evening, July 4, at the Allegan County fairgrounds.

According to Sindy Adama, expert pyrotechnician from Grand Rapids who will direct the event, it is the only program of its kind in the nation.

One of the most unique features is the Bible in Fireworks, an innovation this year. Other thrillers in flame will be Fountains of Fire, Our Country's Flag with a 21-gun salute, The Sparkling Silver Way, a waterfall of fire, Batteries of Golden Stars, Wheels of Fire, the Report Wheel, a riot of noise and action in color, oriental wheel, a double golden wheel, flash salutes and a stupendous assortment of pinwheels, Roman candles, skyrockets and other fireworks extravaganzas.

July 3, 1975

Trowbridge dam bridge to be removed, replaced: The old iron-trussed Trowbridge bridge will be closed starting Monday, July 7 as workers begin the task of replacing the narrow, one-lane structure with a modern two-lane concrete bridge.

A fixture on 26th Street just north of 108th Avenue, this bridge is the last of three old bridges with spans longer than 200 feet crossing the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County that will be replaced.

First to go was the Williams Road bridge, next the bridge at New Richmond and now the Trowbridge structure. The Williams Road bridge was completed in the late 1960s, and the New Richmond bridge is near completion.

As with the Trowbridge bridge, the old one on Williams Road was replaced, while a new bridge was built downstream from the old New Richmond structure, the old one still standing, it's future a question mark.

H & K Construction of Allegan was the lowest of four bidders on the Trowbridge project in bidding which ranged from $198,206.43 to nearly $347,000.

July 6, 2000

Woman donates hair to Locks of Love: Linda Jackson sat in the oversized chair at Christine's Classic Cuts in Allegan with her hands held palm-to-palm in front of her face, resting her forehead on her fingertips. The time had arrived and she said she would do it.

Melissa Wise draped the black cape over Jackson's shoulders and took out her scissors.

"It's for a good cause," Jacksons said. "That's what I keep telling myself."

In May, Jackson heard about a nonprofit organization called Locks of Love, where wigs are made out of human hair for children who suffer permanent hair loss from an accident or illness. It was then Jackson decided she had to donate 10 inches of her wavy, brown hair to the cause.

"I love my hair," Jackson said. "It's such a part of a person's self-image. But mine will grow back. Theirs never will."

Jackson, 27, works at Sylvia's Place in Allegan and has always tried to be involved in good causes.

"My hair is going to bring happiness to some little kids," she said. "As much as my hair means to me, I can't imagine not having it."

Jackson closed her eyes as Wise pulled her hair back into a ponytail and used a measuring tape to define 10 inches, which is the minimum donation required by Locks of Love.

"Ten inches and not a centimeter more," Jackson said.

July 2, 2020

Allegan forced to close alternative high school: Allegan Alternative High School has closed.

Recent changes to how Allegan Public Schools is allowed to spend roughly $450,000 in state money for at-risk students—unrelated to the pandemic's hit on the economy—prompted the sudden switch. The district had used it to fund teaching positions at the school.

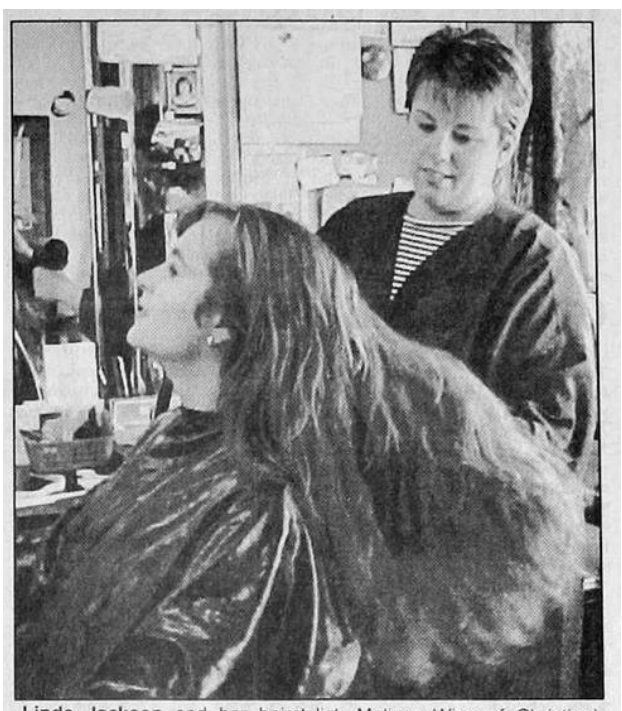
"There are truly no words to express the significance of this loss as, throughout the years, many families given 'another choice, another chance' have thrived in the alternative high school family environment," said APS superintendent James Antoine.

This fall, the 47 students left at the school following this year's graduation will be integrated back into the high school. Antoine said the district's Allegan Online program is expected to help that transition.

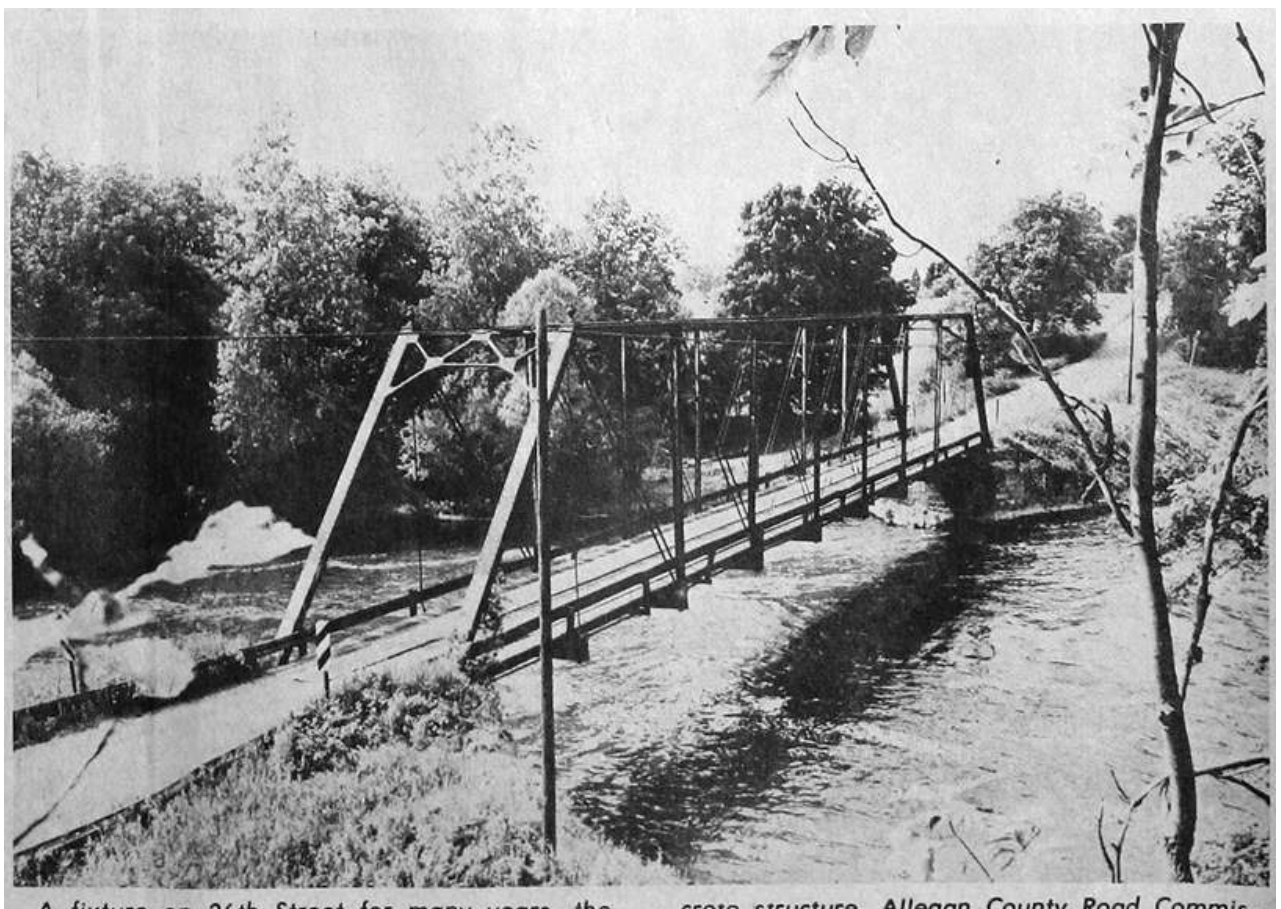
The district has also shifted the former school's administrative spending to the high school, adding an assistant principal position. A new position, the at-risk dean of students, will also be added.

The district can still spend the $450,000 in at-risk money, and it's accounted for in the new budget school board members passed Monday, but school officials could not say whether it too could be cut by Lansing.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk



Linda Jackson and her hairstylist, Melissa Wise of Christine's Classic Cuts in Allegan, prepare to chop off 10 inches of Jackson's wavy, brown hair, to be donated to Locks of Love (above). (Photos by Kelly L. Mann)



A fixture on 26th Street for many years, the Trowbridge bridge will be closed beginning July 7 and H & K Construction begins work to replace the one-lane bridge with a modern concrete structure. Allegan County Road Commission officials said they hope the bridge will reopen to traffic about Christmas.

—News & Gazette photo

Deaths

May 19, 2025

JOSEPH MICHAEL KING-ULLEG, 36, Lee Twp.

June 10, 2025

THOMAS FAIRBANKS VANDENBERG, 84, Allegan

June 11, 2025

JOE GARRY TALLEY, 78, Holland

PAUL ZYLEMA, 65, Hopkins Twp.

June 13, 2025

ISABELL GONZALEZ, 89, Clyde Twp.

WILLIAM PATRICK WROBLESKI, 60, Wayland Twp.

June 14, 2025

SHIRLEY ANN BARNETT, 89, Cheshire Twp.

June 16, 2025

GORDON DONALD HAGERMAN, 88, Wayland Twp.

GAYLE MARIE MAZZA, 83, Holland

June 17, 2025

CURTIS DUANE DAY, 55, Saugatuck Twp.

NEAL JAY STEVENSON, 86, Watson Twp.

ELAINE IRENE TAYLOR, 84, Laketown Twp.

AMY LYNN SYERS, 62, Wayland Twp.

June 18, 2025

PATRICIA JEAN JENKINS, 81, Allegan Twp.

June 20, 2025

RICKI KAE EASTMAN, 78, Lee Twp.

June 23, 2025

JACOB SYBO SYBESMA, 94, Gun Plain Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between June 17 and June 25:

TODD WAUGIN KLANN JR, Allegan, and **GRACE ANNMARIE MEADE**, Otsego

CRAIG ALAN KOTOWSKI, Holland, and **LISA MARIE PERDUE**, Holland

LISA MARIE CARLSON, Allegan, and **BRIAN THOMAS OUELLETTE**, Allegan

JAMES FRANK BURNS JR, Plainwell, and **SAMANTHA DANIELLE LAMORANDIER**, Otsego

ALEXANDRA MALAI LE, Holland, and **EVAN THOMAS GROENEWOUD**, Holland

TORRYN JAE BAREMAN, Hopkins, and **JAMES MATTHEW GARGANO**, Hopkins

MEAGAN LYNN OLDENKAMP, Holland, and **CHRISTOPHER LEE THOMAS**, Holland

AUTUMN LYNN MEYER, Allegan, and **ROBERT KENNETH ASHLEY EAGLE**, Allegan

LAURA ANN COMPTON, Allegan, and **LEON BERNARD LENAU**, Allegan

DANIEL ROGER BOLTHOUSE, Allegan, and **SUSAN ANN TALLADY**, Allegan

RAVEN ANN TYRRELL, Plainwell, and **DEVIN MICHAEL BALL**, Plainwell

YONEIDI MANSO MILAN, Hamilton, and **LUIS YOHAN ACOSTA GONZALEZ**, Hamilton

SARAH ANNE BUCHINGER, Fennville, and **ANDREW JAMES COOK**, Fennville

SUDOKU

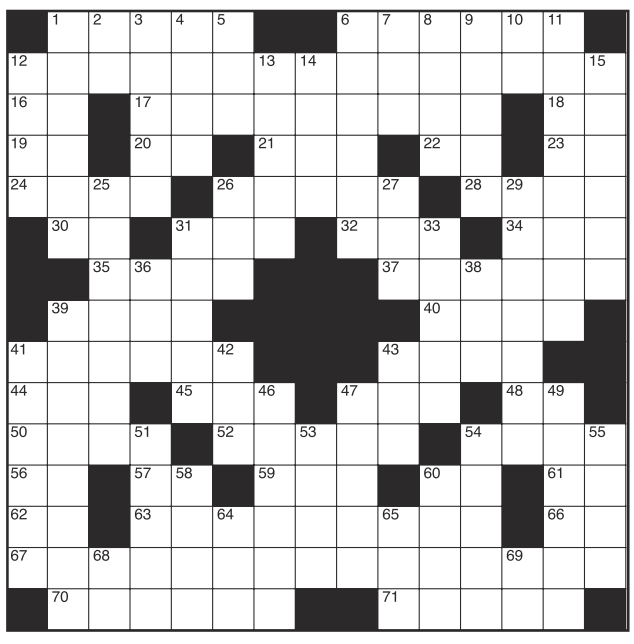
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

				4				
		2					5	
		6	8		9			1
	8			9		2		
				3		4		
	3		5		1	9		
				1	7		4	
5			6					2
7		3	4					

(See Solution Page B7)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

1. Notes
6. Long-haired dog breed
12. ESPN's nickname
16. Spanish be
17. Disadvantage
18. Of I
19. Actor Pacino
20. On your way: __ route
21. Fifth note of a major scale
22. Companies need it
23. News agency
24. Faces of an organization
26. Ponds
28. Samoa's capital
30. Partner to 'Pa'
31. Adult male
32. Cool!
34. Used of a number or amount not specified
35. No No No
37. Hosts film festival
39. British place to house convicts
40. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Chief
43. College army
44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
45. Consume
47. One point north of due east
48. For instance
50. Brews
52. Alaskan river
54. Not soft
56. Atomic #22
57. 'The Golden State'
59. 'The world's most famous arena'
60. Larry and Curly's pal
61. One billion gigabytes
62. Conducts inspections
63. Malaria mosquitoes
66. Unit to measure width
67. Features
70. Affairs
71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

1. Follower of Islam
2. Trauma center
3. French young women
4. Norse god
5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
6. Merchant
7. Peyton's younger brother
8. Jungle planet in 'Star Wars' galaxy
9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
10. 'Pollack' actor Harris
11. Stuck around
12. Put on
13. Influential Norwegian playwright
14. Christian __, designer
15. Fulfills a debt
25. Style
26. More (Spanish)
27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
29. Remedy
31. Disturbance
33. 'The Martian' actor Matt
36. Express delight
38. Brooklyn hoopster
39. 1900 lamp
41. Motionless
42. OneÕs mother (Brit.)
43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
46. Compels to act
47. Gardening tool
49. Ancient country
51. Frightening
53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
54. Popular plant
55. Database management system
58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
60. Where soldiers eat
64. Tenth month (abbr.)
65. Illuminated
68. Atomic #18
69. Adults need one to travel

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on July 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Paige Land, a married woman

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Austin Capital Bank, SSB

Date of Mortgage: October 20, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 31, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $275,495.67

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Ganges, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West; thence East along the South section line 1542.96 feet to the Point of Beginning of this description; thence North 208.71 feet; thence East 208.71 feet; thence South 208.71 feet to the South Section line; thence West on said South Section line 208.71 feet to the Point of Beginning

Common street address (if any): 6935 116th Ave, Fennville, MI 49408-9782

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: June 12, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1563869

(06-12)(07-03)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, July 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Christopher Menzel and Toni Menzel, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for BM Real Estate Services, Inc., its successors, and assigns , Mortgagee, dated February 8, 2022, and recorded on February 23, 2022, in Liber 4732, Page 874, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 03, 2025 and recorded June 04, 2025 in Liber 5038, Page 945, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Two and 20/100 ($250,532.20) including interest at the rate of 4.25000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Unit 18, Summit Estates, a Condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 2060, Page 216, and Amendments thereto, Allegan County Records, and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 146, together with rights in the general common elements and the limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed, and Amendments thereto, and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. Commonly known as: 167 SUMMIT DRIVE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: June 19, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00051-1

(06-19)(07-10)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 07, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Sean E. Reilly and Megan Reilly, a husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 22, 2016 Recorded on January 11, 2017, Liber 4104, on Page 359, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Thirty-One Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Three and 65/100 Dollars ($231,193.65) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 13, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST 883.04 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING ON SAID NORTH LINE, 200.01 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST 617.29 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 36 SECONDS WEST 92.50 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY 107.42 FEET ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF FARMVIEW DRIVE; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST 626.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO A PRIVATE EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES OVER THE SOUTH 10.00 FEET OF THE NORTH 43.00 FEET THEREOF. SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS AS DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE "X", AND A PRIVATE WALKWAY AS DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE "Y" AND AN EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE AS DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE "Z". SCHEDULE "X" DESCRIPTION: AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS, 66.00 FEET WIDE OVER THAT PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST, THE CENTERLINE OF WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 13 SECONDS WEST 572.21 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING FOR SAID CENTERLINE, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 47 SECONDS EAST 49.47 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY 208.90 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A 350.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE RIGHT, THE CHORD OF WHICH BEARS SOUTH 73 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST 205.81 FEET; THENCE EASTERLY 208.71 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A 350.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE LEFT, THE CHORD OF WHICH BEARS SOUTH 73 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST 205.63 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 36 SECONDS EAST 106.92 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 223.31 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A 750.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE LEFT, THE CHORD OF WHICH BEARS NORTH 80 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 49 SECONDS EAST 222.49 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 36 SECONDS EAST 92.95 FEET TO REFERENCE POINT "A" AND THE POINT OF ENDING FOR SAID CENTERLINE. ALSO A DRIVE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER A 20.00 FOOT WIDE STRIP OF LAND IN THAT PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST, THE CENTERLINE OF WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT AFORESAID REFERENCE POINT "A", THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 36 SECONDS EAST 200.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF ENDING FOR SAID CENTERLINE. ALSO AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER A 60.00 FOOT RADIUS TURNAROUND, THE CENTER POINT BEING THE AFORESAID REFERENCE POINT "A". SCHEDULE "Y" DESCRIPTION: A PRIVATE EASEMENT FOR WALKWAY OVER THE SOUTH 95.00 FEET OF THE NORTH 128.00 FEET OF THE EAST 1250.88 FEET OF THE WEST 1283.88 FEET OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST. SCHEDULE "Z" DESCRIPTION: AN EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE OVER THAT PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST, DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 13 SECONDS EAST 33.00 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST 33.00 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 13 SECONDS EAST 95.00 FEET ALONG THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BEELINE ROAD (66.00 FEET WIDE); THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST 450.85 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST 14.68 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 64 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST 122.21 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 26 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST 52.82 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 247.90 FEET; THENCE NORTH 36 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST 142.34 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 26 SECONDS WEST 1250.06 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF 144TH AVENUE (66.00 FEET WIDE) TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 6177 Farmview Dr, Holland, MI 49423 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1564944

(06-19)(07-10)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 07, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Shiann J. Kidder, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Top Flite Financial, Inc. Date of mortgage: June 12, 2024 Recorded on June 13, 2024, Liber 4950, on Page 95, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Eight and 83/100 Dollars ($152,698.83) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: PARCEL 1 COMMENCING AT A POINT AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH 1/8 LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 36, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST END THE CENTERLINE OF THE SO-CALLED GUN MARSH ROAD, AS A PLACE OF COMMENCEMENT; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID 1/8 LINE, 320 FEET; THENCE DIRECTLY WEST TO THE CENTER OF SAID SO-CALLED GUN MARSH ROAD; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG THE CENTER OF SAID ROAD TO POINT OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT: PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 36, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, MARTIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 36; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST, 1328.28 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 36 TO THE EAST 1/8 LINE OF SECTION 36; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 01 SECOND EAST, 203.13 FEET ALONG SAID 1/8 LINE; THENCE NORTH 73 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST, 89.24 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST, 124.77 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF A COUNTY ROAD; THENCE NORTH 33 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 29 SECONDS EAST, 36.56 FEET ALONG SAID CENTERLINE; THENCE SOUTH 73 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST, 109.04 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. PARCEL 2 PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 36, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, MARTIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 36: THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST, 1328.28 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 36 TO THE EAST 1/8 LINE OF SECTION 36; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 01 SECOND EAST, 203.13 FEET ALONG SAID 1/8 LINE TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 73 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST, 89.24 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST, 85.68 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 01 SECOND WEST, 25.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 1217 Marsh Rd, Plainwell, MI 49080 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1565443

(06-26)(07-17)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 07, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Hansard E. Roper, A Married Man & Sara Roper, his Wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: July 28, 2006 Recorded on August 4, 2006, Liber 3018, on Page 410, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Bank of America, N.A. as successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, L.P. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Fifty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-One and 57/100 Dollars ($54,941.57) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: BEGINNING 411 FEET WEST AND 60 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH 1/4 POST OF SECTION 3, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 15 WEST, TOWNSHIP OF CLYDE, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AS A PLACE OF COMMENCEMENT; THENCE WEST 100 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 300 FEET; THENCE EAST 100 FEET; THENCE NORTH 300 FEET TO THE PLACE OF COMMENCEMENT. Commonly known as 5314 124th Ave, Fennville, MI 49408 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Bank of America, N.A. Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1565441

(06-26)(07-17)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, August 7, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by William Tom Beasley, Married Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Union Home Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated May 13, 2022, and recorded on June 8, 2022, in Liber 4768, Page 747, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 28, 2025 and recorded May 05, 2025 in Liber 5030, Page 343, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Seven and 08/100 ($256,297.08) including interest at the rate of 4.75000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 4 and the Northwesterly 25 feet of Lot 5, Weny Addition to the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 39. Commonly known as: 633 MARSHALL ST, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: June 26, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00256-1

(06-26)(07-17)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65669-DE and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Roger Jay Potter Date of Birth:*February 12, 1966

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Roger Jay Potter, died April 28, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Melody A. Sessions, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 30, 2025

Meaghan J. Miracle P80338

1850 44th St. SW

Wyoming, MI 49519

(616) 227-0870

Melody A. Sessions

1997 144th Ave

Dorr, MI 49323

(616) 848-6459

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS REVOCABLE TRUST

In the Matter of: The Robert L. Faske Revocable Trust

TAKE NOTICE: The Robert L. Faske Revocable Trust ("The Trust") was established on November 30, 2005. The Settlor, Robert L. Faske lived at 620 Ely Street, Allegan, MI 49010. Robert L. Faske was born on April 12, 1933, and died on June 2, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Creditors of the Settlor, Robert L. Faske and/or "The Trust" are notified that all claims against The Robert L. Faske Revocable Trust will be forever barred unless presented to: Tonya K. Nash, Successor Trustee, of 4193 East TU Avenue, Vicksburg, Michigan 49097, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: June 30, 2025

David F. Kiel (P43048)

ORTON, TOOMAN, HALE, McKOWN & KIEL, P.C.

314 Trowbridge St., P.O. Box 239 Allegan, MI 49010

(269) 673-2136

State of Michigan
Allegan Co. Probate Court
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
ESTATE OF EARNEST SANFORD, DECEASED

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, including Constance Sanford Mutter; Sharon Ellis, Nathan Pixley, and Cherie Ellis, whose addresses are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE:

Jill McKee intends to request informal appointment as personal representative of the estate of Earnest Sanford. This notice is being served upon each person whose right to an appointment is prior or equal to my own. The court will not act upon my application until 14 days after the date this notice is published.

The actions you may take include:

• Upon paying a filing fee, filing a petition for formal proceedings to appoint a personal representative;

• Upon paying a filing fee, filing an application for informal appointment of yourself as personal representative provided you have a higher priority to be appointed; or

• Contacting an attorney for assistance in representing you in any proceeding you wish to file in the court.

The Court will not be able to provide you with any legal advice in completing or filing the forms.

June 30, 2025

Thomas W. Chadwick P-63397

220 W. Main Street

Address

Ionia, MI 48846

(616) 527-0020

Jill McKee

23260 Monarch Trail

Bloomfield, IA 52537

(Continued on Page B7)

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent=s Trust Estate
Decedent: WAYNE H. LONEY
Date of Birth: March 30, 1946
TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, WAYNE H. LONEY , who lived
at 14086 Kane Road Plainwell , Michigan 49080 died April 24, 2025 . There is no probate estate.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against WAYNE H. LONEY or the WAYNE H. LONEY AND ARDIS J. PIERCE TRUST dated April 4, 2016, will be forever barred unless presented to Scott R. Loney, the named successor trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
June 30, 2025
Tyler J. Stewart P80750
DeMent and Marquardt, PLC
211 E. Water Street, Suite 401
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 343-2106
Scott R. Loney
4153 Wendell Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323
(248) 330-1742

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust Estate
Gary A. Schra ("Decedent")
Date of Decedent's Birth: January 8, 1958
Name of Trust: Schra Living Trust dated December 23, 2021
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Decedent, Gary A. Schra died May 27, 2025. There is no personal representative of Decedent's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Creditors of Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent, Decedent's estate, and/or Decedent's trust(s) will be forever barred unless presented to Trustee, Connie S. Schra, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: June 23, 2025
Douglas J. Brackmann (P-40885)
WESSELING & BRACKMANN P.C.
6439 28th Avenue
Hudsonville, Michigan 49426
(616) 669-8185
Connie S. Schra
1253 Prestwick Drive
Holland, Michigan 49423

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
CASE NO. 25-70127-NA PETITION NO. I
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
IN THE MATTER OF: OLIVER JOHNSON
A PUTATIVE FATHER HEARING will be conducted by the court on JULY 30, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. in 48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION before REFEREE KASSON. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that CARL VANDAM OR ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF OLIVER JOHNSON BORN TO KRISTIN MEACHAM ON 1/12/2020 personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.
Dated: 6/27/25
Judge Jolene Clearwater (P74848)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
CASE NO. 25-70251-NA PETITION NO. I
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
IN THE MATTER OF: AIREBETHA DORRS
A PUTATIVE FATHER HEARING will be conducted by the court on JULY 17, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. in 48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION before REFEREE KASSON. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that JEREMY DORRIS OR ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN PUTATIVE FATEHRS OF AIERIBETHA DORRIS BORN TO CASSANDRA BAILEY ON 8/22/2023 personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.
Dated: 6/27/25
Judge Jolene Clearwater (P74848)

Notice to Creditors
Estate of Robert L. Scholten
Date of Birth: December 13, 1941
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert L. Scholten, of 280 W. 40th Street, Holland, MI 49423, Allegan County, Michigan died May 15, 2025.
Creditors of Robert L. Scholten are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to: Timothy L. Scholten, Trustee of the Robert L. Scholten Protection Trust, u/a/d February 15, 2016, care of Carrier Law, P.C., 4965 East Beltline Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
June 24, 2025
David L. Carrier P41531
4965 East Beltline Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 361-8400
Timothy L. Scholten
5095 144th Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 2025-70430 AF
In the matter of Raevyn Sammphearah Heiss
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
unknown father
whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on August 5, 2025 at
9:00 a.m. at Probate Court, 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan Michigan 49010 before Judge Jolene Clearwater 74848 for the following purpose: Hearing to Identify Father and Determine or Terminate His Rights
June 25, 2025
Elizabeth V. Bauer P26187
128 East Bridge Street
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
(269) 685-6883
Skyler Ane-Marie Marvin
901 Pontius Road SE
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646
(231) 463-7686

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 7, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Pierre Ouelette, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union
Date of Mortgage: July 17, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 20, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $62,267.71
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Valley, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 254, Aspan Acres, as recorded in Liber 9 of Plats, Page 49, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 4372 Moore Rd, Allegan, MI 49010-8913
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 3, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1565644
(07-03)(07-24)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 7, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Douglas Miller, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center, LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: February 2, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 3, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $27,769.99
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 19 and 20 of West Sunset Acres Plat, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats on Page 2.
Common street address (if any): 529 Sherman St, Allegan, MI 49010-1452
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 3, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1565628
(07-03)(07-24)

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Karalynne K. Refner has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Zoom Meeting ID: 287-895-4786 before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848, to change the name of: Theodore Edward Moffit to Theodore Edward Refner

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TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Karalynne K. Refner has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Zoom Meeting ID: 287-895-4786 before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848, to change the name of: Nila Lynne Moffit to Nila Lynne Refner

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Public Notice to Creditors
State of Michigan
Probate Court
Allegan County
Case No 25-65504-DE
Estate of Lindsey Pratt
Date of Death: February 10, 2025
Residence: Wayland, Michigan, Allegan County
The decedent, Lindsey Pratt, passed away on February 10, 2025. All persons, creditors, and entities having claims against the decedent's estate are hereby notified to present their claims to the undersigned Personal Representative of the estate or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative of the estate within four months of the publication of this notice or they will be barred from making such claims.
All claims must be presented in writing and submitted to the Personal Representative at the following address:
Nichole Merren 2021 140TH Ave Dorr, MI 49323
(616) 401-6480
Dated this 24th day of June 2025.
Nichole Merren
Personal Representative for the Estate of Lindsey Pratt

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on 8/21/2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Kameron Christian Daugherty and Steven Daugherty. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for New American Funding, LLC. Date of mortgage: 1/12/2024. Mortgage recorded on 1/29/2024 as Document No. 2024001149, in Liber 4917, Page 236. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New American Funding, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $351,409.90 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, TOWNSHIP OF CASCO. THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST. Commonly known as 596 66th St, South Haven, MI 49090. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 07/10/2025. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-25-00210
(07-10)(07-31)

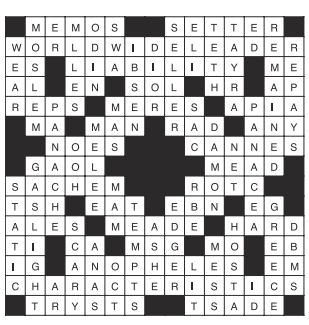
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 07, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): KEVIN L. EICHLER AND ANNETTE R. EICHLER HUSBAND AND WIFE Original Mortgagee: GREEN TREE FINANCIAL SERVICING CORPORATION Date of mortgage: April 10, 1997 Recorded on April 29, 1997, Liber 1639, on Page 163, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on June 18, 2024 in Liber 4951, on Page 314 and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on June 18, 2024 in Document No. 2024008991 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, as successor to Firstar Trust Company, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1997-5 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven and 62/100 Dollars ($32,387.62) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, VALLEY TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 16; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 11` 25" EAST ALONG THE EAST-WEST QUARTER LINE 1006.08 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 11` 25" EAST ALONG THE EAST-WEST QUARTER LINE 306.04 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 04` 50" WEST ALONG THE WEST 1/8 LINE 1314.40 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 01` 10" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH 1/8 LINE 304.82 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 01` 35" EAST 1313.51 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 4353 118th Ave, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, as successor to Firstar Trust Company, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1997-5 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1566027
(07-03)(07-24)

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Settlor, Larry M. Korf (date of birth, 12/28/1948), died May 21, 2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Larry M. Korf Trust dated December 14, 2011, will be forever barred unless presented to Trustee, Brenda Strehl, within four months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
Date: 6-24-25
Generation Trust Law Group
William Bereza (P77550)
5360 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 365-5055
Larry M. Korf Trust dated December 14, 2011
Brenda Strehl, Trustee
5899 Cannon Hills Drive NE
Ada, MI 49301
+1 (616) 802-0083

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-861-4501



Cell Service

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-866-306-6243

Generators

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Auction

Public auction at Hiscock's Towing 3375 115th Ave at 10:00 AM July 8, 2025
1970 Chevy CGL1590
113889 2007 Ford 1FMEU73E57UB27318
2010 Ford 2FMHK6DC8ABA71138

Lawsuit

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

8	5	1	3	4	2	7	6	9
3	9	2	1	7	6	8	5	4
4	7	6	8	5	9	3	2	1
1	8	5	7	9	4	2	3	6
9	6	7	2	3	8	4	1	5
2	3	4	5	6	1	9	8	7
6	2	8	9	1	7	5	4	3
5	4	9	6	8	3	1	7	2
7	1	3	4	2	5	6	9	8

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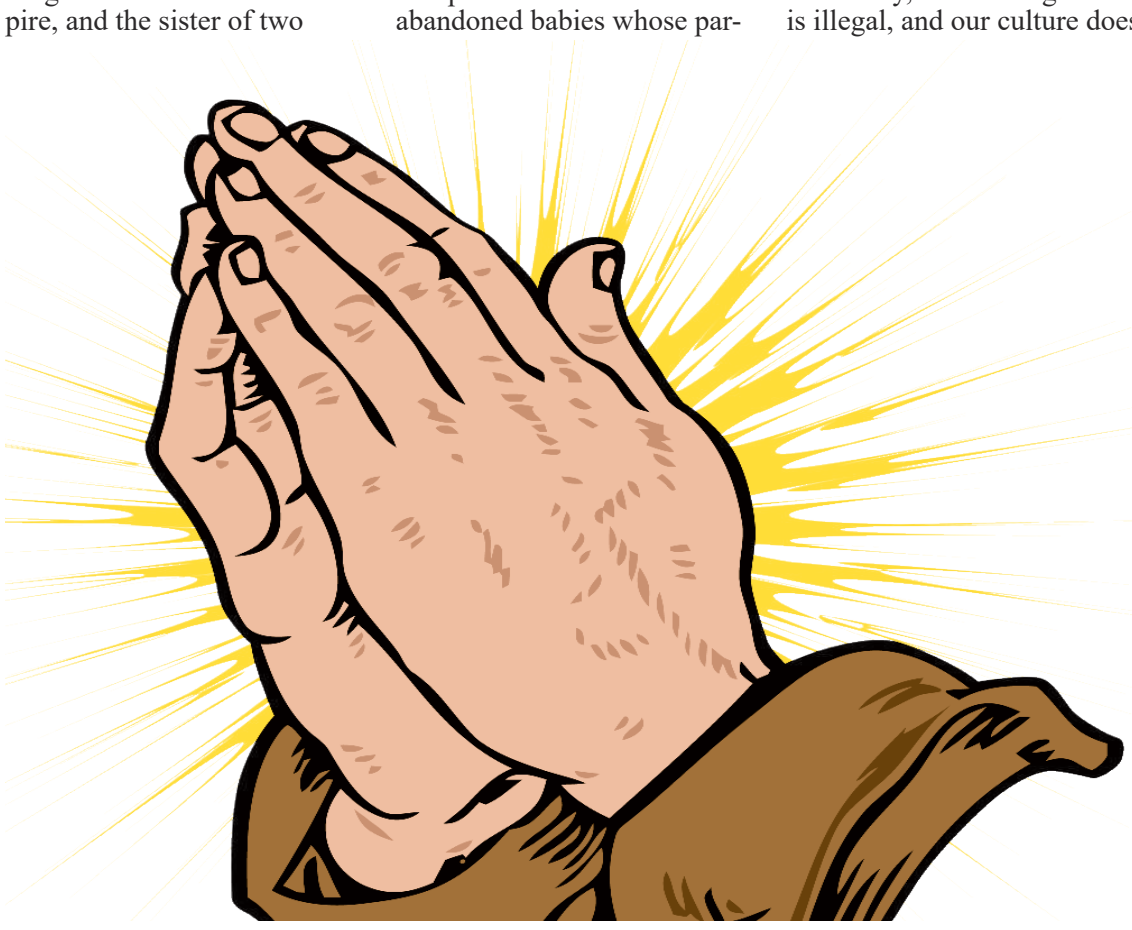
RELIGION SECTION

I subscribe to a weekly newsletter from the delightfully eccentric Jacob Rees-Moog, former Member of Parliament, from England. He is so retro that he is sometimes referred to as the Ambassador from the Nineteenth Century." His clothes, automobile, words, and almost everything else are genuine vintage. However, he is no foppish character. When he speaks or writes, his mind is firing on all eight cylinders.

Recently he wrote about some changes in English law regarding assisted suicide. I realize some people would dismiss this because it pertains to the United Kingdom and not the United States. That might not be wise because ideas flow freely back and forth between the two nations. Already there are laws in several states allowing this practice, both at the beginning and the end of life.

I am not getting into a debate about freedom of choice or right to life, nor about terminating human life near the end of a long and terminal illness. Rather, I want to shift our focus to an emphasis on the dignity of life from birth until physical death. Rees-Mogg cites the life of Saint Macrina of Cappadocia as an example.

Living at about the same time Constantine proclaimed Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire, and the sister of two great early church fathers, she devoted her life to prayer and contemplation. However, during times of war, famine, and disease, she left the convent to tour the local refuse dumps. She went in search of abandoned babies whose parents had no means to feed yet another child. She rescued many of them, most of them girls because baby girls were considered the least valuable persons.



Today, abandoning a child is illegal, and our culture does everything to prevent it from happening. But as we look at our culture, do we see it as a culture of life or death? Are we living in a vast spiritual desert where an individual only has value if they are contributing to the rest of society? Have we lost our belief in God who teaches there is dignity in all life that far surpasses utilitarian value?

Those are challenging questions for us, and often they are hard to look at and explore. It is far easier to divert our attention to something else. For Christians, how we care for our neighbor is truly doing the work of Christ. In the Episcopal communion, as well as others, when we renew our baptismal vows we promise before God and one another that we will do our best to uphold the dignity of all persons. All persons - not just those who look and sound like us, or economically contribute to the nation's coffers.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

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Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
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Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
410 E. Orleans St.
Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

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